www.cityhilights.news TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 | VOL: 11 | ISSUE: 048 | PAGES 12 | ₹4.00 cityhilights.news@gmail.com BENGALURU | HUBBALLI | MANGALURU | MYSURU | KALABURAGI

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CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Putin Cites 'Understandings' with Trump Over End of Ukraine War P8

Manufacturing Growth Hits 17.5-Year High in August P9

RGV, Manoj reunite for horror comedy film P10

QUICK READ

Modi: India-Russia Ties Key to Global Stability

TIANJIN (CHINA)

India and Russia stood "shoulder-to-shoulder" even in most difficult situations and their ties are crucial for global peace and stability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday, amid a major downturn in New Delhi's ties with the US. Modi and Putin met on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) with a focus on expanding bilateral cooperation in economic, financial, and energy sectors.

4 Dead in Shimla Landslides; Red Alert, 5 Highways Shut

SHIMLA

Four people, including a 35-year-old man and his daughter, were killed in the past 24 hours in separate incidents of landslides in Shimla district as heavy rain pounded several places in Himachal Pradesh. Shimla district, which has received 115.8 mm of rain since Sunday evening, has been the worst-hit. Six trains plying on the Shimla-Kalka track have been cancelled following landslips, and 793 roads are closed in the state.

'Dharmasthala Case is BJP's Conspiracy'

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday alleged that the controversy surrounding the Dharmasthala case is part of a conspiracy by the BJP, which is internally divided into factions. Responding to reporters at the KPCC office on Queens Road, Shivakumar hit back at the opposition, questioning their dissatisfaction with the ongoing SIT investigation. "The BJP itself welcomed the formation of the SIT. Now, the same people are staging drama claiming to be unhappy with its probe," he said. On the BJP's demand for an NIA inquiry.

Over 800 Killed, 2,500 Injured as Earthquake and Aftershocks Devastate Afghanistan

A powerful earthquake followed by multiple aftershocks struck eastern Afghanistan just before midnight on Monday, flattening villages, killing more than 800 people, and injuring around 2,500

KABUL/JALALABAD

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reported the 6.0-magnitude quake struck at a shallow depth of 8 km, about 27 km from Jalalabad. More than 1.2 million people likely experienced strong or very strong shaking, the agency said. Tremors were felt as far as Kabul and Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

Taliban officials confirmed that most casualties were in Kunar province, where villages were reduced to rubble. In neighbouring Nangarhar, at least 12 people were killed and more than 250 injured. "Numerous houses were destroyed," interior ministry spokesman Abdul Mateen Qani told AFP, noting that mud-brick homes collapsed instantly.

Rescue operations have been hampered by blocked roads, weak telecom networks, and limited medical facilities. The defence ministry said 40 sorties had been flown to deliver aid, while civilians worked to clear debris. Survivors described scenes of panic, with children and women screaming as homes crumbled around them.

The UN and international agencies joined Taliban authorities in mobilising relief efforts. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed solidarity, saying he stood "in full support of the Afghan people." Afghanistan's vulnerability to quakes has been underscored repeatedly: Herat was devastated in 2023, killing 1,500, while a 2022 quake in Paktika left more than 1,000 dead.

Prez Murmu Graces AIISH Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

MYSURU

Droupadi Murmu urged for early detection of communication disorders, greater awareness, and self-reliance in assistive technology manufacturing

President Droupadi Murmu attended the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) in Mysuru on Monday, highlighting the institute's pivotal role in addressing communication disorders.

In her address, the President stressed the importance of early detection and expert diagnosis of speech and hearing issues, while calling for greater societal awareness, compassion, and cooperation toward those affected. She lauded AIISH's contributions, including the Inclusive Therapy Park for children with communication disorders and the AIISH Arogya Vani initiative, which spreads awareness about early identification. She emphasized that AIISH, as a national-level institute, should aspire to become a role model globally, advising on policies related to communication disorders and promoting innovation. She underscored the need for India to become self-reliant in producing devices such as cochlear implants to ensure affordability and accessibility.

President Murmu also praised government initiatives like Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, aimed at creating a barrier-free environment for divyangjan, ensuring equal opportunities, and making public spaces and services accessible.

During her visit, the President interacted with children undergoing treatment at AIISH and individuals who had overcome challenges with the institute's support.

Kharge accused PM Modi of plotting "vote chori" in Bihar, saying the NDA's double engine rule will soon give way to an alliance

Modi Trying to Win Bihar Polls Through 'Vote Chori': Kharge

PATNA

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that he is attempting to secure victory in the Bihar assembly elections through "vote chori." Addressing a gathering after the culmination of the Vote Adhikar Yatra, Kharge asserted that the ruling NDA's "double engine government" will soon be replaced by a new dispensation representing the poor, Dalits, backwards and women.

Kharge also targeted Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, accusing him of abandoning his earlier commitment to socialism and aligning with the BJP-RSS. He claimed that Kumar would eventually be sidelined by the saffron party and its ideological parent.

The Vote Adhikar Yatra, spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi and Mahagathbandhan allies, covered 1,300 km, 110 assembly constituencies and 25 districts before culminating in Patna. The march was briefly halted by police at Dak Bungalow crossing, where opposition leaders addressed the crowd.

"This yatra was discussed across the nation. Despite attempts to disrupt it, the people of Bihar stood with us," Kharge said. Accusing Modi of shielding fraudsters and looters of public money, he added, "Modi has a habit of chori—vote chori, paisa chori, protecting those who loot banks."

Bombay HC Orders Clearing of Maratha Protestors

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Maharashtra Government to remove Maratha protestors from Mumbai streets by September 2, 4 p.m., and prevent more from entering the city. A special bench of Justices Ravindra V. Ghuge and Gautam A. Ankhad said demonstrations must be confined to Azad Maidan, the only venue permitted for a one-day protest. The Court noted media reports of protestors climbing traffic signals, damaging property, and disrupting daily life, calling the situation "untenable." The State admitted permission was granted to 5,000 protestors but thousands more gathered at CSMT, Flora Fountain, and the Secretariat.

GRAND WELCOME

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah extended a warm welcome to President Droupadi Murmu with a bouquet on her arrival in Mysuru.

'Hydrogen Bomb' Revelations on 'Vote Chori' Coming: Rahul

PATNA

The Congress's Voter Adhikar Yatra concluded in Patna on Monday with a massive rally at Gandhi Maidan, where Rahul Gandhi promised explosive disclosures on alleged voter theft, warning they would be more powerful than his earlier Mahadevapura "atom bomb" revelations.

Addressing a sea of supporters, Rahul Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be unable to face the nation once these revelations came out. He alleged that "the same forces which killed Mahatma Gandhi are now attempting to kill the Constitution," asserting that Congress would resist such attempts at any cost.

He cautioned that voter theft was not just an attack on democracy but a precursor to losing rights, jobs, reservations, and even ration cards and land. He vowed to soon present more evidence "in black and white" to expose what he called systematic electoral manipulation.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also addressed the gathering, terming the yatra the fourth major effort by Gandhi to safeguard people's rights.

Annapoorna Scheme for Sanitation Workers

BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) launched the Annapoorna Scheme, aimed at improving the health and morale of its sanitation workforce. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inaugurated the programme by distributing smart cards to workers.

Under the scheme, more than 700 sanitation staff received Axis Bank-powered smart cards, each credited with ₹1,500 per month. Workers can use the cards at eateries of their choice, allowing them to pick meals freely.

BOSTON BRAHMINS

'Brahmins' profiteering off Indian people: Trump's Aide

WASHINGTON DC

White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro has once again stirred controversy with sharp criticism of India while defending U.S. tariffs on imports. Speaking to Fox News on Monday (September 1, 2025), Navarro accused India of imposing some of the world's highest tariffs, calling it the "Maharaja of tariffs." He argued that such policies hurt American workers and taxpayers, linking India's trade practices to broader geopolitical tensions, including the Ukraine war.

Navarro went further, accusing "Brahmins" of profiteering at the expense of ordinary Indians, claiming that this system of exploitation "needs to stop." He alleged that New Delhi has become a "laundromat for the Kremlin," citing India's continued purchase of discounted Russian oil, which is refined and sold globally. According to him, this undermines Western sanctions while indirectly financing Moscow's war effort in Ukraine.

While acknowledging Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "great leader," Navarro questioned his alignment with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, particularly after Modi's bilateral meeting with Xi on August 31 during the SCO summit. He urged Indian citizens to recognize what he called profiteering by elites at their expense.

The remarks come amid escalating criticism from Trump administration officials who have repeatedly linked India's trade and energy policies to Russia's geopolitical leverage. Navarro's latest comments also follow a U.S. Appeals Court ruling that President Donald Trump's tariffs were "illegal." Despite the ruling, Washington continues to pursue trade negotiations. This marks the second time in recent days that Navarro has accused India of serving as an oil hub for Moscow.

QUICK READ

Cooperative Credit Boost for Farmers

The Karnataka government has highlighted various loan facilities available to farmers through cooperative societies. Farmers can avail short-term crop loans up to ₹5 lakh at zero interest and livestock or fisheries loans up to ₹2 lakh. Medium- and long-term agricultural loans up to ₹15 lakh are offered at 3% interest. Mortgage loans at 7% and transport vehicle loans up to ₹7 lakh at 4% are also available. Additionally, warehouse construction loans up to ₹20 lakh receive a 7% interest subsidy.

Karnataka police warns against posts

The Karnataka State Police has issued a stern warning against making offensive posts and comments on social media, cautioning that strict legal action will follow any attempt to disturb public peace and order. Recently, a priest from Kengeri was arrested for derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on social media. Police also highlighted past arrests, including nine accused for sending abusive messages to actress and former MP Ramya. Officials urged citizens to exercise restraint online, emphasizing zero tolerance for inflammatory content.

RCB, BCCI, KSCA PLAN CROWD SAFETY

Franchise unveils six-point formula to strengthen safety at future celebrations

In the wake of the tragic stampede that claimed 11 lives during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) IPL victory celebrations earlier this year, the franchise has announced a structured plan to ensure improved safety measures at future events. On Monday, the team's social initiative, RCB Cares, revealed that it will collaborate with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to design stronger crowd management protocols. The initiative aims to address gaps in public safety and restore confidence among fans who throng RCB's events in massive numbers.

The RCB management has already extended financial aid of ₹25 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives in the incident. Building on that, RCB Cares outlined a six-point formula focusing on crowd control, safety audits, emergency response mechanisms, and coordination with local authorities. However, the plan will be rolled out only after receiving formal approval from the concerned government departments.

The foundation said It was created to "support, empower, and elevate our 12th Man Army through meaningful action," reflecting RCB's commitment to stand by its fans beyond the cricket field. The franchise also emphasized that the lessons learned from the unfortunate tragedy will be a guiding force in shaping a safer environment for future celebrations.

With inputs from cricket bodies and regulatory clearance, RCB hopes its initiative will set a benchmark for large-scale event management in Indian sports.

K'taka introduces PDO transfers via counselling

Minister Priyank Kharge announces digital, transparent transfer process to strengthen rural governance and accountability

In a landmark move aimed at improving transparency and efficiency in rural governance, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department will conduct Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) transfers through counselling for the first time. Minister for RDPR and IT-BT, Priyank Kharge, announced the schedule on Monday.

As per the new rules, PDOs who have served at a single location for more than five years will face mandatory transfers. Counselling for these transfers will be held between September 10 and 20, 2025, while sessions for general transfer requests are scheduled for September 23 and 24.

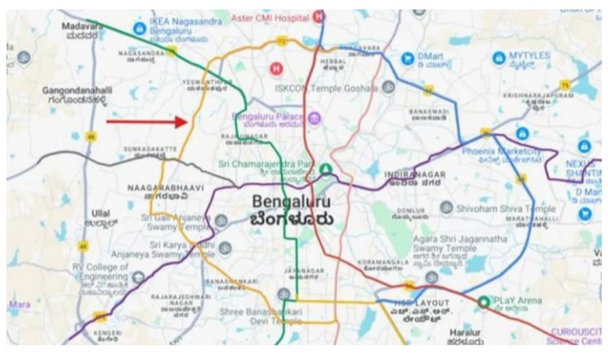
The transfers will be regulated under the Karnataka State Civil Services (Transfer of PDOs, Senior PDOs, Gram Panchayat Secretaries, RD Assistants Grades 1 and 2, and Second Division Account Assistants) Rules, 2024, which were notified earlier this year with suitable amendments.

The RDPR department has already received 1,730 online applications, including 515 under special cases and 1,215 general requests. Final priority lists for special and mandatory transfers have been published on the official portal www.rdpr-transfer.karnataka.gov.in. Counselling for special cases will be conducted from September 3 to 8, with a second round on September 8.

Minister Kharge also highlighted that the government successfully completed transfers of Gram Panchayat Secretaries (Grades 1 and 2) and Second Division Account Assistants on June 25, 2025, as part of its budget commitments to strengthen local bodies. "This is the first time PDO transfers are happening through online counselling. It ensures transparency, controls corruption, and enhances service delivery at the grassroots," Kharge stated. Digital, signed transfer orders will be issued on the spot during counselling sessions across 31 districts, covering more than 1,300 eligible staff.

BMRCL confirms revised metro project timeline citing design and funding challenges

Orange Line metro deadline extended to 2031



The much-anticipated Orange Line Metro project in Bengaluru has already seen its deadline pushed back even before construction begins. Initially expected to be completed by 2030, officials from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) have now confirmed that the project is likely to be finished only by May 2031. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for the corridor earlier this year on the same day he inaugurated the Yellow Line. However, changes in the construction plan, including the decision to build double-decker corridors to ease traffic congestion, have extended the timeline by a year.

The 44.65-km-long Orange Line will connect JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempegowda International Airport via Kempapura, and from Hosahalli to Kadabagere in another stretch. The line is being developed in two phases and is expected to take around five-and-a-half years for completion once work begins. The tendering process is scheduled to conclude by November, with construction targeted to commence between December 2025 and January 2026.

The project, originally budgeted at ₹15,611 crore, may see costs escalate by at least 5% due to the delay. A major portion of the funding—₹6,770 crore—is expected from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), with a loan agreement likely to be finalized in November. Though the state government had approved the project in 2021 and the Centre cleared it last year, commuters may have to wait longer if unforeseen challenges arise, as witnessed in the Yellow Line's construction.

Global scholars unite for Meelad conference

Bengaluru is set to host one of its largest religious congregations as the International Meelad-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference takes place on September 5, 2025, at Palace Grounds, Gate No. 1. The event, marking the 1500th year of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birth, will bring together thousands of devotees, scholars, and dignitaries from across India and abroad.

Organised by the Joint Meelad Committee, Bengaluru, the conference aims to highlight the Prophet's universal message of mercy, compassion, truth, and justice. Convenors stressed that celebrating Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) is not just festivity but a reaffirmation of values essential for peace and harmony.

A major highlight will be the participation of eminent scholars such as Habeeb Umar Bin Hafeez (Yemen), Shaikh Abubacker Ahmed Musliyar (Kerala), Abdullah Abdul Kabeer Abdul Kareem (Madina), and Shaikh Hashmi Abdul Qadeer Mansooruddin (Iraq). Their presence underscores the universality of the Prophet's teachings.

The conference also recalls the extraordinary humanitarian effort of Habeeb Umar and Shaikh Abubacker Musliyar, whose spiritual diplomacy saved Indian nurse Nimisha Priya from execution abroad—an act hailed as a symbol of faith-driven compassion. Several Indian scholars, including Peer Syed Mohammed Qasim Ashraf Ashrafi Jilani and Dr. Mohammed Sajjad Misbahi, will address the gathering on themes of spirituality and unity. The event will be presided over by Al-Haj Ameer Jaan Qadri and held under the patronage of leading clerics.

Elderly pedestrian dies in BMTC mishap

The rising number of accidents involving Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses has once again claimed a life in the city. A 70-year-old pedestrian, who was critically injured after being hit by a BMTC bus in Mahadevapura on Sunday, succumbed to his injuries on Monday.

The victim, identified as Shankar Narayan, was walking along a road in Mahadevapura when the speeding bus allegedly knocked him down. Passersby rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors confirmed that he had sustained multiple severe injuries. Despite intensive medical efforts, Narayan could not be saved and was declared dead earlier today.

Following the incident, the Mahadevapura Traffic Police registered a case against the BMTC bus driver. Preliminary reports suggest negligence on the part of the driver, though further investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances of the accident. Residents of Mahadevapura have voiced concern over the frequent accidents involving BMTC buses in Bengaluru, particularly in densely populated areas.

Local activists argue that rash driving, inadequate pedestrian crossings, and poor road discipline are contributing factors to the mounting casualties.

This latest accident has reignited calls for stricter monitoring of BMTC drivers and the introduction of comprehensive safety measures. Civic groups are demanding enhanced training for bus operators, stricter enforcement of speed limits, and installation of traffic-calming infrastructure in accident-prone zones. Shankar Narayan's death adds to the growing toll of pedestrians losing their lives in BMTC-related accidents, underscoring the urgent need for effective solutions to ensure commuter and pedestrian safety in the city.

Press Day Celebration in Ramanagara Today

The Bengaluru South District Unit of the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association has announced that a Press Day celebration and Talent Award ceremony will be held today (Tuesday) in Ramanagara.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan and will be inaugurated by District In-charge Minister Ramalinga Reddy. Bengaluru South MP Dr. C.N. Manjunath will present talent awards to the children of journalists from the district who secured top marks in SSLC, II PUC, and final degree examinations. Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain will distribute accident insurance bonds to association members. Magadi MLA H.C. Balakrishna will pay floral tributes to a portrait of Dr. D.V. Gundappa on behalf of all attendees.

Channapatna MLA C.P. Yogeshwar, MLCs S. Ravi, Puttanna, Ramojigowda, Ramanagara City Municipal Council President K. Sheshadri (Shashi), and JD(S) Youth Wing State President Nikhil Kumaraswamy will be present on the occasion.

The keynote address will be delivered by KUWJ State President Shivananda Tagaduru, while Deputy CM's Media Advisor P. Thyagaraj will deliver the main address. Local leaders, former MLAs, senior district officials, and state office-bearers of KUWJ will attend as chief guests. The program will be presided over by KUWJ District Unit President B.V. Surya Prakash, the release stated.

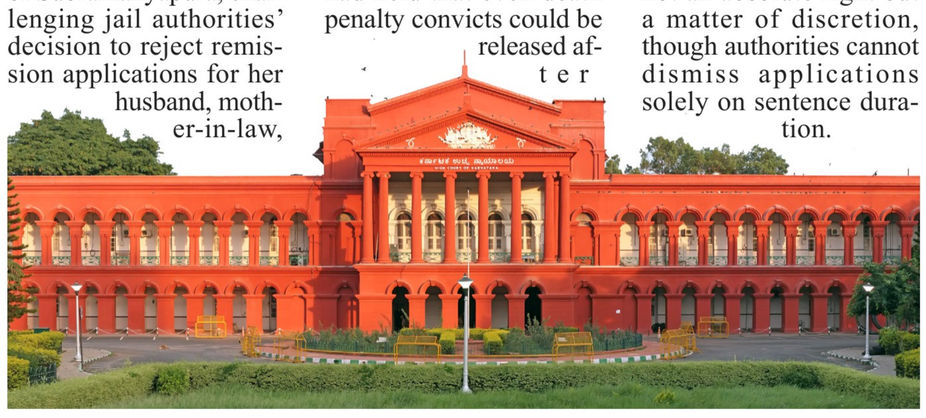
Monkey snatches bag at Shivagange

A dramatic video from Shivagange Hill, 55 km from Bengaluru, has gone viral showing a monkey snatching a tourist's bag and throwing it down a steep edge. The tourist, risking his life, carefully climbed down with the help of others to retrieve his belongings. Onlookers shouted warnings as the monkey tried to scare and leap at them. Fortunately, the man recovered his bag safely. The incident has sparked concerns over visitor safety at popular hill temples plagued by monkey menace.

HC clarifies rules on remission

The Karnataka High Court has clarified that there is no legal provision mandating the rejection of remission or parole applications filed by convicts sentenced to more than 20 years of imprisonment. The Dharwad Bench, led by Justice Suraj Govindaraj, ruled that such convicts remain eligible for remission, parole, or early release if their sentencing order does not specifically prohibit it.

The order came while hearing a petition by Deepa Angadi, a resident of Subramanyapura, challenging jail authorities' decision to reject remission applications for her husband, mother-in-law, and son-in-law, who were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. Their death sentences were earlier commuted to 21 years' rigorous imprisonment.



According to the Karnataka Prison and Correctional Services Rules, 2021, remission aims to encourage discipline, reform, and good conduct among prisoners. Rule 164 does not restrict remission for convicts serving more than 20 years. The court noted that the Supreme Court, in the Rajendra Mandal case, had held that even death penalty convicts could be released after 14 years if their sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Deepa's husband Siddappa has served 18 years, her son-in-law Siddalingappa 17 years, and her mother-in-law Mallavva 15 years. Despite this, remission pleas were denied, prompting the petition. The bench directed jail authorities and the life sentence remission committee to reconsider the applications within two weeks, applying their discretion fairly. The ruling underscores that remission Is not an absolute right but a matter of discretion, though authorities cannot dismiss applications solely on sentence duration.

BMTC drivers clash on busy city road

In a shocking incident that disrupted traffic and angered passengers, two BMTC drivers stopped their buses in the middle of the road and engaged in a heated altercation on Kanteerava Studio Road. Eyewitnesses reported that the argument between the drivers quickly escalated into a physical confrontation, leaving passengers stranded inside the stationary buses. Despite repeated pleas from commuters to move the vehicles aside and resume the journey, both drivers ignored the requests and continued their quarrel.

Videos recorded by passengers and bystanders show the two drivers shouting at each other and creating chaos on the busy stretch. The footage, now circulating on social media, has sparked widespread criticism of BMTC staff conduct, with many citizens questioning the accountability and discipline of the transport corporation.

Irate passengers can be heard in the video asking, "If you fight like this, whom should we complain to? Why did you stop the bus in the middle of the road instead of pulling it aside?" The unexpected drama not only inconvenienced daily commuters but also caused traffic congestion in the area.

BMTC officials have reportedly taken note of the incident after the videos went viral. Sources within the corporation said that an inquiry will be initiated to identify the drivers and disciplinary action will be taken as per service rules. The incident has once again raised concerns over driver training, stress management, and passenger safety in Bengaluru's public transport system, which carries lakhs of commuters every day.

DOG-WASTE BENGALURU

Dog Menace and Solid Waste Woes Top Civic Concerns

Residents of Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone have raised strong concerns over two persistent civic issues—growing dog menace and poor solid waste management (SWM). At a recent grievance meeting chaired by senior officials, citizens urged immediate measures to ensure public safety and hygiene.

Locals highlighted that packs of stray dogs are increasingly threatening pedestrians, school children, and the elderly. In one reported instance, nearly 70 stray dogs created panic in the ward, leaving several residents fearful of stepping out after dusk. The need for scientific sterilisation under the Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release (CNVR) programme was strongly emphasised. Activists alleged that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has failed to carry out dog control measures effectively, resulting in frequent attacks and accidents. Equally alarming are the gaps in SWM across the zone. Data presented at the meeting revealed that of the 38,053 households, waste is being systematically collected from only about 11,493, with more than 2,200 households left out entirely. Many black spots remain uncleared, and improper segregation continues despite repeated awareness drives. Citizens demanded strict monitoring of contractors, door-to-door collection for all households, and penalties on violators.

Officials assured that corrective steps would be taken, including renewed contracts with waste management agencies and collaboration with welfare associations to intensify door-to-door collection. The health department has also promised focused dog sterilisation drives to curb the menace before year-end. Residents stressed that without urgent, coordinated action, public health and safety in RR Nagar will remain under severe risk.

QUICK READ

Chintamani anganwadi recruitment drive announced

The Women and Child Development Department has invited online applications to fill vacant posts under the Chintamani Taluk Child Development Project. A total of 14 Anganwadi worker positions and 63 Anganwadi assistant posts are open, which fell vacant due to various reasons. As per government guidelines, the recruitment is reserved for eligible local women candidates and gender minorities under the prescribed quota system. Applicants must submit their forms online through the official website http://karrnemakaone.kar.nic.in/abcd before 5:30 PM on September 30.

Applications invited for Valmiki award

The Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare has invited applications for the Sri Maharshi Valmiki Award for 2025–26. Eligible candidates must be at least 35 years old, free from unlawful activities, and recognized for significant voluntary service, particularly towards the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes in education, economy, and social harmony. Applicants should also have documented contributions reflecting Valmiki's ideals. Forms are available at welfare offices in Chikkaballapur, Chintamani, Shidlaghatta, Bagepalli, Gudibande, and Gauribidanur, and must be submitted by September 10 with required documents. For details, contact 08156-277117.

TEJASVI SURYA URGES AIRFREIGHT FOR METRO

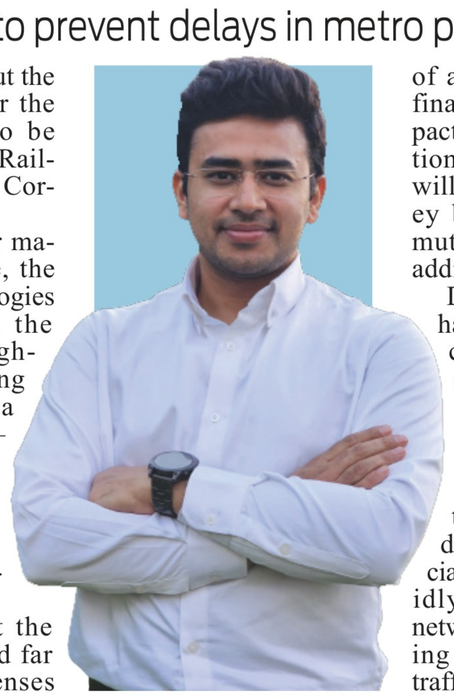
Tejasvi Surya urges swift action to prevent delays in metro project delivery

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya has urged the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to take immediate steps to ensure timely delivery of trains for the Yellow Line Metro by opting for airfreight of key components.

In a statement shared on social media, Surya revealed that he held a detailed discussion with the Managing Director of Titagarh, the company responsible for supplying trains.

According to him, the manufacturer is ready to deliver up to eight trains by September 30, but the bogies required for the rakes still need to be supplied by China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC).

While most other materials are in place, the delay in receiving bogies threatens to stall the project. Surya highlighted that shipping the bogies by sea could result in a 30–45 day delay, whereas airfreighting two trains' worth of bogies would ensure delivery on schedule.



He stressed that the cost of delay would far outweigh the expenses of airfreight, given the financial and social impact of late metro operations. "Timely delivery will not only save money but also ease commuter life and generate additional revenue.

Delay, on the other hand, will only add to costs," he remarked. Surya added that he has already urged BMRCL to press CRRC for urgent action. He emphasized that accelerating the delivery process is crucial for Bengaluru's rapidly expanding metro network and for addressing the city's growing traffic challenges.

B'luru CEO's Viral Post Flags Dangerous Panathur Road

A LinkedIn post by city-based CEO Prashant Gupta has reignited public anger over Bengaluru's crumbling road infrastructure, after he highlighted the hazardous condition of Panathur Main Road, a stretch used by thousands of vehicles and school buses every day.

The post, which has since gone viral, features a video showing large potholes, uneven surfaces, and waterlogging on Panathur Main Road. Gupta said the road has been in a dangerous state for years despite repeated complaints to authorities.

"You have to watch this video to understand the magnitude of problems with Bengaluru's road infrastructure. This road is quite an important one, used by tens of thousands of vehicles (including school buses) every day, and the condition has been like this for many years now," he wrote.

Tagging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, and the BBMP, Gupta urged urgent intervention. "Despite my repeated complaints, nothing has been done. Hoping this post gets your attention to act on this," he added.

The post drew sharp responses from LinkedIn users, many of whom echoed Gupta's frustration. One described the road's condition as "a disaster in waiting," while another called it "a national shame." Several residents pointed out that lack of accountability in governance has left working professionals and commuters helpless. Some even recalled living in Panathur years ago and said little has changed since then. "The plight of roads in Bengaluru is rock bottom," one commenter remarked, praising Gupta for bringing the issue into spotlight.

Karnataka Election Commission warns against misleading election schedules circulating online

Election Commission Denies Panchayat Poll Schedule

The State Election Commission (SEC) has dismissed widespread rumours on social media claiming that the schedule for the upcoming Gram Panchayat general elections has already been released. Officials clarified that no such announcement has been made so far, urging citizens not to fall prey to misinformation.

According to the SEC, several fabricated posts have been circulating online over the past few days, misleading the public about alleged dates and procedures. The Commission stated that it has not issued any official timetable for the Panchayat elections and warned that such false information could create unnecessary confusion among voters and political parties alike.

In an official release, the Deputy Secretary of the SEC emphasized that any announcement related to the Gram Panchayat elections will be made transparently through established channels, including press conferences, print publications, and visual media. "The Commission has not declared any schedule yet. The public is advised to rely only on official updates and not believe baseless rumours," the release said.

The SEC also cautioned Individuals and groups against spreading unverified information, pointing out that strict measures could be taken if deliberate attempts to mislead citizens are identified. The Gram Panchayat elections, held once every five years, play a crucial role in grassroots democracy by empowering local self-governance. With no formal dates yet, the Commission reiterated that voters should wait for its official announcement and avoid being misled by social media speculation.

Passengers stranded as traffic police seize bus

A routine commute turned stressful for passengers when Sanjay Nagar Traffic Police seized a KSRTC bus near Esteem Mall for halting at a non-designated stop. The move left commuters stranded for nearly 30 minutes, sparking anger against the police. Eyewitnesses said a constable boarded the bus, warned the driver, and directed him to the station, ignoring pleas from office-goers, students, and employees onboard. Passengers were eventually left roadside without alternative transport. Many called the action "high-handed and insensitive," accusing police of harassment. A commuter said, "We were treated like offenders though we had no role in the driver's decision." The bus, operating between Gauribidanur and Bengaluru, was later released, but passengers had to shift to another vehicle. Citizens have demanded a review of the officers' conduct, urging humane enforcement of rules.

Journalists Honored for Outstanding Media Service

CH NEWS

Veteran journalist S. Naganna was felicitated by the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association (KWJA) for his remarkable contributions to journalism. The felicitation coincided with his honorary doctorate recognition from Tumakuru University. Speaking at the event, CS Shadakshari, president of the State Government Employees' Association, emphasized the challenges faced by credible journalism in today's social media-driven era and stressed the need for responsible reporting.

H.B. Madangouda, honorary secretary of the Kannada Sahitya Parishad, lauded Naganna for elevating Prajapragati newspaper's reputation and bringing Tumakuru into prominence through his relentless service. KWJA state president Shivananda Tagadur highlighted Naganna's dedication in transforming a district-level publication into a respected state-level newspaper.

During the event, KWJA also recognized investigative journalist Girish Linganna with a Datta Nidhi Award for scientific reporting. Senior journalists and office bearers from across Karnataka attended to honor the contributions of these media stalwarts. Expressing gratitude, Naganna encouraged fellow journalists to uphold professional integrity despite growing challenges.

Left turn closure near Ambedkar ground

Traffic police have announced the closure of the left turn near Ambedkar playground to ensure smoother vehicular movement in the area. The decision comes in response to increasing traffic congestion and the need to streamline road safety and traffic flow in this busy stretch.

According to officials, vehicles including BMTC buses and private automobiles traveling towards Nagawara, Thanisandra, and Yelahanka will no longer be able to take the left turn at Ambedkar

Playground. Instead, they have been directed to take a left turn near Hennur Cross bus stop. From there, commuters are required to use the service road for onward travel towards their respective destinations.

Authorities stated that the move is aimed at reducing traffic bottlenecks and improving connectivity for heavy passenger vehicles, especially BMTC buses, which often face delays due to congestion at the Ambedkar turn. Closing the stretch is also expected to enhance pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the playground, which sees significant footfall.

Traffic police have appealed to the public to cooperate with the new route plan and follow diversions for hassle-free commuting.

B'luru man sets former live-in partner ablaze

In a shocking case of violence, Bengaluru police have arrested a 60-year-old cab driver for setting his former live-in partner on fire, leading to her death.

The victim, identified as Vanajakshi (35), a resident of Bilwaradahalli in Bannerghatta, succumbed to burn injuries on Monday at Victoria Hospital, where she was admitted with 60 percent burns. The accused, Vittal, who lived in the same locality, allegedly carried out the attack.

According to the police, the incident occurred when Vanajakshi was traveling with her relative, Muniyappa, in a car. Vittal, who had been following them, intercepted the vehicle on Hommadevanahalli Main Road. He then poured petrol on Vanajakshi and attempted to set both her and Muniyappa on fire. As the victims tried to escape, Vanajakshi fell, and Vittal ignited her using a lighter.

Investigations revealed that Vittal had a troubled personal history. His first wife died, while his second wife left him and eloped with another man. After befriending Vanajakshi, who was separated from her husband until his death six months ago, the two began a live-in relationship. However, police said Vanajakshi had recently started distancing herself and had grown close to another man, which often led to quarrels.

Students lead Bengaluru's climate action movement

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) launched its first cluster-level Nature Immersion programme this weekend under the Bengaluru Climate Action Clubs initiative, with students taking the lead in driving green change. Held at Sankey Tank, the event brought together 55 students from Bishop Sargent High School, Carmel PU College, and HKES Sree Veerendra Patil PU College.

Organised by the BBMP Climate Action Cell in collaboration with Thicket Tales, the programme aimed to engage young Bengalureans in biodiversity and sustainability practices. Students took part in activities such as spotting spiders, bees, and raptors, mapping their school campuses, and reimagining ordinary spaces as greener, more climate-resilient zones.

Participants also prepared detailed greening action plans, including planting native trees, creating terrace and hanging gardens, composting, and adopting rainwater harvesting. Officials said the initiative equips students with practical tools to understand the climate crisis and confidence to implement change locally. Sankey Tank was chosen for its historical significance as a hub of community life and conservation, attracting walkers, birdwatchers, and boating enthusiasts, symbolising the link between ecology and urban living.

Bengaluru is also expanding public engagement with lakes. Earlier this year, Yelahanka Lake hosted a beginner-friendly sailing programme with the Royal Mysore Sailing Club, teaching rigging, manoeuvring, and rescue operations.

Heavy rains forecast for K'taka coast

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a weather advisory warning of heavy rainfall across Karnataka's coastal districts over the next five days due to a depression forming in the northern Bay of Bengal.

According to the IMD, the depression is expected to intensify atmospheric conditions, resulting in widespread showers along the coast. From September 2 to 3, an orange alert has been declared for the coastal belt, cautioning residents about the likelihood of intense downpours, possible waterlogging, and disruption of daily activities. Additionally, a yellow alert will remain in place on September 4, 5, and 6 to monitor continued heavy rainfall.

While the coastal districts brace for severe weather, the southern and northern interior regions of Karnataka are expected

to experience moderate showers during this period. Farmers have been advised to take necessary precautions to protect standing crops, while fishermen are urged to avoid venturing into the sea as rough conditions are anticipated.

Authorities in districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada have been alerted to make arrangements for potential flooding, traffic disruptions, and emergencies. Disaster management teams are also being put on standby to respond to any untoward incidents.

Residents are urged to stay updated through official advisories and avoid spreading unverified information. The IMD has emphasized the need for caution during the next five days, warning that persistent heavy rains could lead to localized flooding in low-lying areas and affect normal life across Karnataka's coastal belt.

CHIKKAJALA METRO PIL

HC declines PIL for Chikkajala Metro

The Karnataka High Court has declined to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) demanding the construction of a metro station at Chikkajala on the under-construction Blue Line of the Bengaluru Metro, ruling that the decision on the location of stations lies within the exclusive authority of the state and metro authorities.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi observed that determining the number and location of stations is a policy decision not open to judicial review under Article 226 of the Constitution. The court, however, directed the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to formally consider and respond to a representation submitted by Chikkajala residents in 2022.

The PIL, filed by C.R. Naveen Kumar and six other residents, alleged that the BMRCL arbitrarily dropped plans for a Chikkajala station on the Phase 2B Blue Line, which connects K.R. Puram in East Bengaluru to Kempegowda International Airport. The petitioners sought to restrain the authorities from proceeding with construction beyond Chikkajala without reinstating the station.

The bench cited Its July 23 ruling on a similar plea for a station at Bettahalsuru, located nearby on the same line. In that case, the court had dismissed the demand after BMRCL abandoned the station plan when a private developer withdrew funding, despite land acquisition and compensation having been completed. Reiterating its stance, the court emphasized that judicial review is permissible only if decisions are proven to be mala fide, arbitrary, or unconstitutional. It concluded by directing BMRCL to take an "informed decision" on the residents' request while proceeding with the project.

QUICK READ

Scholars Pay Tribute to MM Kalaburgi

Hubballi

Horakeri Mastara Shikshan Pratishthan, Ranichannamma Environmental Service Committee, Basava Environmental Conservation Committee organised a programme at Alur Venkatarao Bhavan to commemorate the 10th death anniversary of the great researcher Dr MM Kalaburgi, by garlanding his portrait and paying homage. Renowned linguist Prof GN Devi, Dr MM Kalaburgi National Foundation President Dr Veeranna Rajura, Secretary of Ranichannamma Environmental Service Committee, Secretary of Basava Environmental Conservation Committee and others were present.

Ramanagara Jail Inmates Clash, FIR Filed

Ramanagara

A clash erupted between two groups of prisoners at Ramanagara District Jail on Saturday, resulting in minor injuries to jail staff. The fight, reportedly stemming from an old rivalry between inmates Harsha and Devaraju, escalated until authorities intervened and restored order. The jail administration subsequently separated the prisoners into different barracks to prevent further incidents. Following the altercation, FIRs have been filed against 23 inmates for violating prison rules and engaging in group violence.

Invitation to Participate in Dasara Sports Meet

Gadag

The District-Level Dasara Sports Meet for 2025-26 will be held on September 3 and 4 at the KH Patil District Stadium. According to a press release from the Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, only male and female athletes who secured first or second place in individual events, and first place in group events at the taluk level, are eligible to register.Eligible participants must register their names using the code provided on the link: https://dasaracmcup-2025.etrpindia.com/KA-sports.

KY Nanjegowda Challenges SN Narayanaswamy

Congress MLA KY Nanjegowda has issued a bold challenge to colleague SN Narayanaswamy over claims of BPL status amid party tensions

KOLAR

Congress MLA KY Nanjegowda has issued a bold challenge to his colleague SN Narayanaswamy in the midst of ongoing internal party tensions in Kolar. Speaking at a local event in Malur, Nanjegowda addressed accusations by Narayanaswamy that he is an APL (Above Poverty Line) legislator while Narayanaswamy allegedly holds a BPL (Below Poverty Line) card. Nanjegowda declared that if it could be proven he possessed a BPL card, he would immediately retire from politics. He added that while Narayanaswamy may come from a family that once held a BPL card, he himself has always been APL and has publicly maintained transparency about his status. Nanjegowda emphasized his long-standing political career, pointing out that people have been observing his actions since his grandfather's time and that his credibility should not be questioned. He also reminded Narayanaswamy of his own tenure as a three-time MLA and urged him to verify facts before making statements.

The remarks come amid a week of intensified internal disputes among Congress MLAs in Kolar, who have been staging protests and vocally criticizing district-level party functioning. In a related development, MLC Anil Kumar responded to allegations of undermining Congress legislators, asserting that he has risen through grassroots politics and does not act impulsively.

District Administration to Assist UAS in Krishi Mela

DHARWAD

UAS-Dharwad's Krishi Mela, set for Sept 13–16, will see joint efforts with the district administration to promote modern farming

The annual Krishi Mela organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) has been a major event attracting lakhs of visitors not only from northern Karnataka but also from neighbouring Maharashtra. Over the years, it has served as an important platform for providing farmers with information on modern agricultural technologies, innovative cropping methods, and value addition to farm produce.

Until now, UAS had been independently organising the mela. However, this year, District Minister Santosh Lad has directed that the district administration also play an active role to ensure the mela's grand success. Expressing dissatisfaction over the UAS-Dharwad's earlier reluctance to involve the district administration, the Minister emphasised that the university must take the administration into confidence while planning and executing the programmes.

At a preparatory meeting attended by UAS Vice-Chancellor P.L. Patil and the Registrar, Minister Lad said the UAS should not restrict its role to hosting the mela but must also guide the administration in framing policies to address the socio-economic and technical challenges faced by farmers in its jurisdiction.

Vice-Chancellor Patil announced that this year's Krishi Mela will be held from September 13 to 16 with the theme 'Food Nutrients, Soil, and Crop Varieties–Agricultural Processing.'

Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu highlighted growing concerns over farmer suicides in North Karnataka, particularly in the districts of Haveri, Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkot, and Gadag. While the government and district administrations have been providing awareness, assistance, and relief through various departments, she stressed that scientific research is urgently required to better understand the social, economic, and other causes behind these tragedies.

Father Accused of Sexually Assaulting His Daughter

VIJAYPURA

A woman has filed a complaint against her husband, accusing him of raping their 5-year-old daughter. The incident was reported to the Women's Police following a distressing revelation from the child.

According to the mother's statement, both daughters attended a Ganesh festival on the night of August 30. Upon returning home, the youngest daughter was found crying and disclosed to her mother what her father had done to her. Alarmed by the child's account, the mother took her to the hospital the following day, where medical examinations confirmed the rape. The couple, who have been working as laborers and have settled in Vijaypura from Indi taluk in the Vijaypura district for the past two years, are now facing the serious implications of this horrific accusation.

In response to the situation, Shashidhar Kosambe, a member of the State Women Rights' Protection Commission, informed media persons on Monday that the commission has initiated a suo-motu case. The commission has instructed the police station inspector to file a formal complaint against the accused and has directed the district administration to ensure that the victim girl receives the necessary medical assistance.

Wild Boar Capture: Court Fines Two People

BELAGAVI

A court has fined two persons ₹1 lakh for illegally capturing a wild boar in the forest area of Savadatti taluk. The duo was also remanded to judicial custody after a speedy trial. The accused, identified as Manjunath Basappa Bhajantri and Umesh Panduranga Bhajantri of Shindogi village, were arrested while attempting to catch the wild animal and sell its meat. The arrests were made during a patrol by Regional Forest Zone Officer K.V. Aladakatti and Sogala Branch personnel.

Following court directions, the wild boar was safely released into its natural habitat, Savadatti Zone Forest Officer Sanjeeva Samsuddhi confirmed. The operation was carried out with the assistance of Sogala Branch Sub-Divisional Forest Officer H.B. Pannalgad, Patrol Forester Krishna Munavalli, Munavalli Sub-Divisional Forest Officer V.H.L. Ogi, and Patrol Forester Ramesh Patolli.

Students Protest Demanding Bus Stop at Hiremoraba

HAVERI

Hundreds of school and college students from Hiremoraba village in Rattihalli taluk staged a sudden protest on Monday, demanding proper bus service to Masur, Shikaripura, Rattihalli–Ranebennur, and other routes. They alleged that drivers were refusing to halt buses in their village, causing severe inconvenience.

The students blocked buses and sat on the road, raising slogans against the authorities. Villagers, recognizing the students' difficulties, extended their full support to the agitation. Hirekerur PSI and police personnel rushed to the spot to regulate traffic and pacify the protestors.

During the protest, a heated exchange broke out between students, villagers, and the police, leading to minor pushing and shoving. Soon after, the Hirekerur depot manager arrived and assured the gathering that a notice would be issued to drivers and operators from Shikaripura and Ranebennur depots who were bypassing Hiremoraba village.

He further promised corrective measures to ensure students do not face such inconvenience in the future. Following this assurance, the students and villagers withdrew their protest.

HAVEMUL Drivers Protest by Dumping Milk Cans

HAVERI

Drivers of the Haveri Milk Union (HAVEMUL) launched a sudden protest on Monday by unloading milk cans in front of the union's administrative office, expressing their anger over unmet demands. The protesters alleged that despite collecting and transporting milk from several milk producers' associations across the district, the union had failed to address their grievances.

According to the drivers, the previous tender expired three months ago, yet they have been transporting milk cans without a valid contract since then, as per officials' instructions. They claimed they were not being compensated for additional distances traveled.

Currently, HAVEMUL vehicles operate on 54 routes. While tenders have been floated again, orders have been finalized for only three routes. The remaining tenders, drivers said, were stalled midway due to receiving only a single application, which they termed unfair. They demanded that tenders be issued for all routes without delay. Responding to the protest, Managing Director S.M. Pradeep assured the drivers that the process was being carried out according to tender rules. He added that the issue would be taken up at the board meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

Unconvinced by the explanation, the drivers continued their sit-in inside the office. They warned officials, "We will unload all the cans and leave. You must act."

Two Killed in Lorry-Bike Collision on State Highway

DAVANGERE

A tragic accident between a lorry and a bike claimed the lives of two two-wheeler riders on the Birur State Highway in Channagiri taluk on Sunday evening.

The deceased have been identified as Thippeshappa from Tadaga village and Lakkappa from Shivani village in Chikkamagaluru district. The duo was traveling from Channagiri to Shivani village when the fatal collision occurred.

The Birur State Highway, known for its many sharp turns, has become prone to accidents. Locals say two to three accidents occur every week on this stretch, often leading to fatalities, and have urged authorities to take preventive measures.

Server Crash Disrupts Property Registrations

BAGALKOT

Just hours before the state government's revised property registration fee came into effect, Sub-Registrar offices in several taluks across the state faced a major server crash. With the fee doubling from 1 percent to 2 percent, angry buyers and sellers alleged that the "server down" incident was deliberate and demanded that pending registrations be processed at the old rate. They also questioned the logic of introducing the hike on a Sunday, a general holiday.

Arvind Muchakhandi, secretary of the Bagalkot Abhivruddhi Horata Samiti, said he had submitted a sale deed at the Sub-Registrar office in Mudhol, but the server failure left officials helpless. "When I asked when it would be fixed, they had no answers. I ended up paying ₹32,000 instead of ₹16,000. This 100 percent hike amounts to extortion by the government," he said. Muchakhandi also alleged that despite reaching out to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Commissioner P. Sunil Kumar, they neither responded effectively nor followed up.

He further noted that appointments had been booked a week in advance, but citizens were forced to pay the higher 2 percent fee on Saturday itself. "If the government really cared for the common people, such hikes should be announced at least a month in advance," he added.

Meanwhile, several Sub-Registrar staff in the Belagavi division, speaking anonymously, revealed that the server came back online around 5.30 p.m. on Saturday. While a few applicants managed to generate challans under the old fee, they were later instructed to pay the balance amount on Monday.

Viral Fever Cases Spike After Heavy Rains

RAICHURU

Continuous heavy rainfall has transformed the normally dry district of Raichuru into a wet, Malnad-like region, leading to a sharp rise in viral fever cases. The infection is spreading rapidly across all age groups, from young children to the elderly, overwhelming hospitals and clinics.

The unusual weather, marked by persistent showers and cooler temperatures, has created ideal conditions for viruses to thrive. As a result, local health facilities are seeing a significant increase in admissions compared to previous years. Pediatric hospitals, in particular, report the highest number of cases, with children showing symptoms such as fever, fatigue, body and limb pain, cough, respiratory issues, and occasional vomiting.

Doctors note that the number of patients over the past fifteen days has roughly doubled compared to earlier years. While viral fever can be managed effectively if treatment begins early, neglecting symptoms may require hospitalization. Pediatric specialist Dr. Mallesh Gowda advises parents to take preventive measures, ensure children stay hydrated, and seek timely medical care.

Health authorities have urged vigilance in homes and schools, especially for children with pre-existing conditions. Public awareness campaigns emphasize hygiene, prompt treatment, and monitoring for warning signs to prevent further spread. With heavy rains expected to continue, officials stress that precautionary measures and early intervention remain crucial to controlling the outbreak.

VIRUPAKSHAPPA URGES DILIGENCE

Hard Work Key to Success: Former MP Virupakshappa

RAICHUR

"Success in life can only be achieved through continuous study, punctuality, and hard work," said former MP K. Virupakshappa. Diligence is the most important factor; without it, nothing can be accomplished, he stressed.

He was speaking at the inauguration of this year's taluk-level talent award programme, organised by the Kurubara Sangha and Kanaka Employees Association taluk units at Kanakadasa Kalyana Mantapa in Sindhanur.

Virupakshappa noted that thousands of students in the Kalyan Karnataka region have reached high positions after the implementation of Article 371(j). Students should aspire for IAS and KAS and pursue studies with dedication, he advised. He further added that if the Kuruba community is included in the Scheduled Tribes, it would help secure reservation in education and employment, for which a movement will be organised under the leadership of elders.

GB Vinayakumar, founder-director of Insights IAS and KAS Academy in Bengaluru, said that individuals must shape their own destinies, and continuous learning is the path to higher positions. Thinker Chidanandaiah Guru also addressed the gathering.

BJP leader K. Kariappa, RDCC Bank Director Somanagouda Badarli, and PCARD Bank President M. Doddabasavaraja garlanded the portraits of Kanakadasa, Sangolli Rayanna, and Ahilyabai Holkar.

Students with outstanding results in SSLC, PUC II, graduation, and achievers from various fields were felicitated. The programme was attended by Siddhamanandapuri Swamiji of Tinthini Kanaka Gurupeeth, Madaiah Guru of Amogha Siddheshwar Mutt, Turvihal, and Birappa Poojary of Raudakunda.

Minister Lad Assures Relief for Farmers Affected by Rains

DHARWAD

The state government will extend compensation as per existing norms to farmers who suffered crop losses due to heavy rains in August, Labour Minister Santosh Lad said.

Chairing a meeting on rain-related damage in the district, the minister stressed that providing timely relief is the government's foremost duty. He directed officials to complete the crop loss survey without delay and submit reports promptly. "The survey must be accurate and fair. Eligible farmers must receive justice. This will help speed up flood relief operations in the district," he said.

According to preliminary figures from the agriculture and horticulture departments, crops on 97,612 hectares have been damaged. This includes 79,697 hectares of green gram, 6,550 hectares of black gram, 7,250 hectares of soybean, and 50 hectares of maize.

In horticulture, rains damaged 915 hectares of chilli, 2,920 hectares of onion, and 230 hectares of garlic, the minister informed. He added that survey teams are still working in affected areas and the final extent of the damage will be known within two to three days.

Apart from crop losses, 223 houses were also damaged. Relief measures for these households have already been initiated in line with government guidelines, Lad said.

Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu said agriculture and horticulture officials have been conducting surveys for the past 15 days. She instructed them to submit a consolidated report by Monday evening, after which farmers will have a week to file objections. She stressed that surveys must be systematic to ensure all deserving farmers receive compensation.

QUICK READ

Engineer Cheated of ₹11.3 L in Online Fraud

Haveri

Pooja Sali (27), an engineer from Chalagere in Ranebennur taluk, was duped of ₹11.3 lakh in an online scam. She received a call from a man introducing himself as Rahul Sharma, a junior telecom officer, who alleged that her ID was linked to a phone number used in illegal activities in Mumbai. He threatened her with an FIR, prompting Pooja to panic and follow his instructions. She ended up transferring ₹11.3 lakh to several bank accounts and UPI IDs. Only later did she realise it was a fraud and lodged a complaint with the Cybercrime, Economic Offences, and Narcotics (CEN) police station. CPI S.R. Ganachari confirmed that the case is being investigated seriously.

Applications Invited for Apprenticeship

Chitradurga

The Minority Welfare Department has invited applications for the Apprenticeship Scheme for Law Graduates in the district for 2025–26. Eligible candidates from Muslim, Christian, Jain, Parsi, Buddhist, and Sikh communities can apply. The last date for submission is September 15. Application forms are available at the Minority Welfare Department office, Sri Rama Complex, Stadium Road, Chitradurga, the release stated.

Belagavi Gears Up for Historic First Flyover Project

Belagavi is set for a historic milestone as work on its first-ever ₹4,500 crore flyover begins this September

CH NEWS BELAGAVI

Belagavi is on the brink of a historic transformation as work on its first-ever flyover project, costing an estimated ₹4,500 crore, is set to commence in September. Spanning 4.5 km, the ambitious initiative is aimed at easing the city's mounting traffic congestion and ensuring smoother vehicular movement along its busiest stretches.

A video showcasing the proposed design has already gone viral on social media, sparking excitement among citizens. Touted as the "dream project" of District In-charge and PWD Minister

Satish Jarkiholi, the flyover is being seen as a major step towards resolving Belagavi's long-standing traffic challenges.

The structure will begin near Sankam Hotel on National Highway-4 and extend through key junctions, including Ashok Circle and Sangolli Rayanna Circle (RTO), before culminating at Kittur Rani Chennamma Circle. It will then connect to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road and extend towards ICMR, eventually merging back with the highway.

To ensure seamless connectivity, the design integrates multiple link roads. At Ashok Circle, the flyover will connect to Mahantesh Nagar Road, while at Sangolli Rayanna Circle it will link the bus stand, Chennamma Circle, and Krishnadevaraya Circle (Kolhapur Circle). It will also align with other upcoming infrastructure projects, such as the super-specialty hospital and the new Deputy Commissioner's office.

Belagavi, grappling with heavy traffic due to rapid urbanization and the rising number of vehicles, is expected to experience significant relief upon the project's completion. The flyover is designed to eliminate bottlenecks at critical points and streamline overall traffic flow.

In addition, a service road via the proposed Road Over Bridge (ROB) will offer direct connectivity to Sambra Airport, enhancing regional access.

"This flyover project is my long-cherished dream. Once completed, it will provide permanent relief to Belagavi's traffic issues and mark a turning point in the city's development," said Minister Satish Jarkiholi.

DC Urges Precautionary Steps to Contain Infectious Diseases

GADAG

Deputy Commissioner CN Sridhar has directed officials to take strict precautionary measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in the district and urged public cooperation in maintaining clean surroundings to support health department efforts.

Presiding over the District Surveillance Committee meeting in Gadag, he stressed the need for preventive steps against dengue and chikungunya, while also highlighting the importance of cleanliness awareness in both urban and rural areas.

He further noted that Gadag is among the endemic districts affected by Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), a viral fever transmitted by infected mosquito bites. Since there is no specific treatment for KFD, prevention is crucial. Already, 76 blood samples and 26 tick pool samples have been sent to the Shivamogga VDL laboratory, all of which tested negative. In 2024, eight tick pool samples had also returned negative, and no monkey deaths have been reported so far. As the disease spreads between November and June, monthly taluk-level meetings are being held under the chairmanship of the Tahsildar. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the cooperation of all departments, particularly the Forest and Animal Husbandry Departments, is essential in controlling the disease.

DC CN Sridhar directed officials to intensify preventive measures against dengue, chikungunya, KFD, and other infections, while appealing for public cooperation in maintaining clean surroundings

During the meeting, Dr. Venkatesh Rathod shared that five cases of Leptospirosis have been reported in the district till the end of July 2025. He also stated that between January and July 2025, Gadag recorded 2,499 cases of enteritis, 2,064 cases of typhoid, 22 cases of Hepatitis-A, and 61 cases of dengue.

Take Road Safety Measures to Prevent Accidents: Deputy Commissioner

CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner T Venkatesh has directed officials to implement necessary preventive road safety measures across the district, particularly at junctions, curves, and along national, state, district, and rural roads. Stressing that such measures can significantly reduce road accidents, he issued the instructions while presiding over the district-level Road Safety Committee meeting on Monday.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to ensure the installation of signboards, speed

breakers, rumble strips, cat eyes, and blinkers at accident-prone spots on highways and rural roads. He also directed the Public Works Department to install high mast lights near the Kelagote Housing Board in Chitradurga city for public convenience and to expedite the construction of a pedestrian overbridge near JMIT College.

Officials informed that cat eyes have already been planned near Kelagote Housing Board to facilitate smoother traffic, while tenders have been invited for the pedestrian skywalk near JMIT, with work set to begin after contractor appointment.

Highlighting the problem of unauthorized stalls, the Deputy Commissioner said that makeshift shops on both sides of roads at the entry and exit points of Hiriyur city are obstructing vehicle movement due to parked trucks, and similar stalls near toll plazas on national highways are disrupting smooth traffic flow. As these stalls operate without permission, he instructed the National Highways Authority to take immediate steps to clear them.

Villagers Capture Crocodile, Hand It Over to Forest Department

KALABURAGI

A crocodile that had strayed into a tank at Malla (B) village in Jewargi taluk from an overflowing river was captured by villagers and handed over to Forest Department officials.

Following incessant rains, several rivers in the region are overflowing, and it is suspected that the crocodile entered the tank along with the floodwaters. The lake, situated close to the village, became the reptile's resting place and it was first spotted by locals on Sunday night.

Acting swiftly, the villagers covered the crocodile's eyes with a cloth and tied it up securely with ropes. They then alerted Forest Department staff, who rushed to the spot and rescued the reptile, later releasing it safely into a river.

Woman Found Dead with Throat Slit, Husband Arrested

DAVANGERE

In a shocking incident, the body of a woman was discovered with her throat slit in Chikkamallanahalli Gollarahatti village of Jagaluru taluk. The deceased has been identified as Jyothi (35). The murder is believed to have taken place on Sunday night (August 31) but came to light only later. As the body was found inside the house, suspicion has fallen on her husband, Balraj.

Police from Jagaluru station have taken Balraj into custody for questioning. A dog squad and forensic team visited the spot to gather evidence.

The case has created tension in the locality, and investigators are probing whether domestic issues led to the crime. Officials confirmed that further investigation is underway.

Rain Deficit: DC Recommends 25% Crop Insurance

CHITRADURGA

Hiriyur taluk has recorded a 48 percent rainfall deficiency during June and July of the current monsoon, leading to severe disruption in agricultural activities. Only 14.66 percent of the total cultivable land has been sown so far.

Deputy Commissioner T Venkatesh has stated that he will recommend to the government to grant 25 percent insurance compensation to farmers who have paid crop insurance premiums in line with the rules.

He made this statement at a meeting held on Monday with officials from the Agriculture Department, representatives of insurance companies, and farmer

leaders. Out of 40,510 hectares of agricultural land in the taluk, sowing has been completed on only 5,939 hectares. Despite rains in August, sowing could not pick up.

In Kasaba Hobli, sowing has been completed on only 947 hectares out of 9,045 hectares. In Aimangala Hobli, just 1,748 hectares out of 9,385 hectares were sown; in JG Halli Hobli, 1,313 hectares out of 9,965 hectares; and in Dharmapura Hobli, 2,468 hectares out of 12,115 hectares.

A total of 9,410 farmers in Hiriyur taluk have registered under the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, paying premiums of about ₹1.62 crore. As per the government's notification, if sowing fails on more than 75 percent of the land, the insurance company must provide up to 25 percent compensation and cancel the insurance for the next season. In this regard, Venkatesh confirmed that the joint survey report has been approved and the insurance company has been recommended to release compensation.

Basava Cultural Campaign to Begin on September 3

CH NEWS BIDAR

The Basava Cultural Campaign will be organized on September 3 under the joint auspices of the Union of Lingayat Seers, Basava organizations, and the Basava Cultural Campaign Committee. Announcing the details at a press conference on Monday, committee president Basavaraj Dhannoor said the statewide campaign, which was inaugurated on September 1 at Basavana Bagewadi, will travel across Karnataka and conclude on October 5 at Bengaluru's Palace Grounds, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will deliver the valedictory address.

In Bidar, the programme will begin with a Vachana interaction session for students and the public at Channabasava Pattadevara Ranga Mandira, inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma.

A grand procession will then move from Basaveshwara Circle to BV Bhoomareddy College, to be flagged off by District In-charge Minister Eshwar Khandre. The procession will feature over 100 seers, 2,000 Sharana women in traditional Ilkal sarees, 2,000 men in dhotis, along with children dressed as young Sharanas. Later in the evening, a public function will be held at BV Bhoomareddy College, followed by a performance of the play Jangamadege by the Shivasanchara Sanehalli troupe.

Statewide Stir Planned Against Internal Reservation Policy

CH NEWS BELAGAVI

Members of the Banjara, Bhovi, Koracha, and Korama communities have announced a series of protests opposing the state government's internal reservation policy. A massive rally will be held in Belagavi on September 4, followed by another demonstration at Bengaluru's Freedom Park on September 10.

The announcement was made by Manjunath Pammar, State Vice President of the Rashtriya Gor Melava.

Speaking to the media, Pammar described the caste-based categorization under the current system as "unscientific" and built on flawed data, resulting in unjust classification.

He called on the government to follow the Supreme Court's directive by conducting a caste-wise socio-economic survey and formulating a scientific basis for reservation.

Prakash Rathod, BJP SC Morcha District President, noted that the previous BJP government had recommended 4.5 percent reservation for the four communities and 1 percent for nomadic tribes.

However, he alleged, the present Congress government has weakened these benefits by placing them under broader categories. He demanded a full enumeration of all tandas, taluks, and districts, along with consultations involving community representatives and subject experts.

Mites in Water Are Mosquito Larvae, Warns THO

CHITRADURGA

Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish clarified that mites seen in water are actually mosquito larvae, stressing that water storage areas inside homes and solid waste accumulation outside during the rainy season provide ideal breeding grounds. Speaking at an advocacy workshop on dengue fever control and prevention at the Buddhanagar Health Center on Monday, he said mosquitoes that breed in clean water and bite during the day are responsible for spreading dengue and chikungunya.

He noted that since there is no specific treatment for dengue, prevention is crucial. People should ensure water sources at home are kept clean and follow preventive measures to stop disease transmission. District Entomologist Nandakadi highlighted the vital role of Gram Panchayat Development Officers and Hostel Wardens in prevention. Health Department officials are already conducting larval surveys and awareness campaigns, and dengue cases have declined compared to last year. However, Panchayat Development Officers must prioritize village cleanliness, ensure water does not stagnate, and alert assemblies about mosquito breeding in construction areas and public places. Preventive steps like cleanliness and mosquito control require strong public cooperation, he added. Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa also educated the community on the mosquito life cycle, self-protection, and preventive measures through a folk song.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SPURTHI SRIDHAR KUMAR**, W/o Sridhar Kumar Rajanna, Resident of Apartment No.218, 2nd Main, Venkatesh Reddy Layout, Konnappana Agrahara, Bengaluru-560 100, have changed my name to **SPURTHI VENKATESH REDDY**, vide affidavit dated: 01.09.2025 before notary V.Rajashekhara, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **J.S.MUKTAIRYAR**, S/o SATTAR SAB aged about 43 years, r/at 3rd Block, Jangamakote, Sidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapur District. Have changed my name **J.S.MUKTAIRYAR** to **J.S.MAKTHIYAR** Vide affidavit Dt.1-9-2025 before Notary K.H.VENKATAPPA, Advocate & Notary, Govt. Of KARNATAKA, Chickballapur.

NAME CHANGE

I, **GHOUSE PEER WAJIHA RAFEEQ**, W/o Mohammed Saqlin Sulaiman, residing at No.17, 1st Cross, P & T Colony, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560032. Have changed my name to **WAJIHA RAFEEQ**, vide affidavit dated: 01.09.2025 before notary N. Nagappa, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact:

080-41209042

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, BELAGAVI.

No. : KRU.U.MAA.SA(Be)/Aabhike/754/2025-26 Date : 30-08-2025

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from the registered eligible contractors through **KPPP Protal for the following Work taken up during 2025-26 at Main Market Yard of APMC, Belagavi.**

1) Name of the Work : Development of Cattle Market of Belagavi APMC, Amount Put to Tender (Lakhs) : Rs. 09,30,907.06 (Exclusive of GST), EMD Amount : Rs. 23,300.00, Last Date to File Tender : 20-09-2025 at 5.30 p.m., Technical Tender Opening Date : 23-09-2025 at 11.00 a.m., Financial Tender Opening Date : 28-09-2025 at 4.30 p.m., 2) Name of the Work : Construction of CC Roads B/W S & Q Block and B/W J & N Block and Drains at Main Market Yard of Belagavi APMC, Amount Put to Tender (Lakhs) : Rs.1,39,76,302.23 (Exclusive of GST), EMD Amount : Rs. 2,10,000, Last Date to File Tender : 20-09-2025 at 5.30 p.m., Technical Tender Opening Date : 23-09-2025 at 11.00 a.m., Financial Tender Opening Date : 28-09-2025 at 4.30 p.m.

EMD amount and tender conditions are available in KPPP Portal. More information may be availed from the **Secretary, APMC, Belagavi during working hours except on holidays and http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website and E-procurement Helpline Number : 080 - 2250 1216 / 2550 1227** of Government of Karnataka.

Sd/- Secretary, APMC, Belagavi. **Sd/- Administrator, APMC, Belagavi.**

DIPR/Belagavi/923/Manipal/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:13/2025-26, Dated: 29.08.2025

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "Kppp" Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of KW-4, 3 and 2 for 4 works. The minimum amount put to tender Rs.32.80 Lakhs and the maximum amount put to tender Rs 102.50 Lakhs. The minimum EMD amount Rs.0.66 lakhs and the maximum EMD amount Rs.1.64 lakhs. The other tender details are given below (Exculding GST). Any information regarding this tender may be obtained: from this office during office hours up to **Date: 29.08.2025 - 5-30 PM**. Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in **Date: 06.09.2025 -5.30 PM**. Technical bid will be opened on: **Date: 08.09.2025 -11-00 AM**. Financial bid will be opened on: **Date: 10.09.2025 - 11-00 AM**

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in e-Procurement Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Mysore.

DIPR/DDMYS/885/KSMCA/484/2025-26

QUICK READ

Four arrested after man beaten to death

Jamshedpur

A man named Brindavan was allegedly beaten to death in Kasmar village, East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand, on Sunday evening. Police said the attack followed a heated argument between Brindavan and some villagers over a small issue. His wife filed a complaint, leading to the arrest of four people. The incident happened under Dumaria police station limits. Deputy SP Sandip Bhagat confirmed the arrests and said the case is under investigation. The police have registered an FIR and are gathering more details to find out what led to the violence and whether others were involved.

Man arrested for false railway bomb threat

Thane

A 43-year-old man, Rupesh Madhukar Ranpise, was arrested for making a fake bomb threat at Kalwa railway station in Thane district. He called the police helpline around 4 pm on Sunday, claiming a bomb was planted at the station. Police quickly responded, and teams including the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad and Railway Protection Force dog squad searched the area. After a thorough check, no explosives were found, confirming it was a hoax. The Government Railway Police took Ranpise into custody and are investigating the motive behind the false alarm that caused panic among officials and the public.

Woman dies, many hurt in van crash

Mathura

A woman died and over a dozen people were injured when a van carrying pilgrims crashed into a stationary truck near Holla village in Mathura district on Sunday night. The group, from Mathura and Rajasthan, was on its way to Soron in Kasganj district to bathe in the Ganga. According to local SHO Ashok Kumar, the van driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel, causing the accident. Around 18 to 20 people were in the van, and many suffered serious injuries. Police reached the spot and helped shift the injured to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Amit Shah reviews flood-hit areas in Jammu

JAMMU

The Home Minister announced IMCTs to assess flood damage in J&K, Himachal, Punjab, and Uttarakhand, and evaluate relief efforts by local governments

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday visited flood-affected areas of Jammu city, including the damaged Tawi Bridge and Bikram Chowk, to assess the extent of damage. He was joined by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, and senior officials during his on-the-spot review.

The Tawi Bridge suffered heavy structural damage in recent floods, while nearby areas such as Bikram Chowk also reported severe impact. Shah interacted with officials and reviewed ongoing relief and restoration measures. Later, he was scheduled to conduct an aerial survey of Kishtwar district and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine route, both badly affected by a cloudburst and landslides last month.

Amit Shah arrived in Jammu on Sunday evening and was received at the airport by senior leaders and top officials. Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka, BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, and representatives of NHAI, IMD, and security agencies are also present in the region.

The Home Minister announced inter-ministerial central teams (IMCTs) to assess flood damage in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand. These teams will evaluate relief efforts carried out by state and union territory governments.

Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay urged peaceful discussion on migrant workers' mistreatment, prioritizing Bengali-speaking people's interests

Bengal Assembly to debate migrant harassment issue

KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly on Monday admitted a motion to discuss alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking migrant workers in several BJP-ruled states. The motion, moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, was accepted by Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay during the first day of the Special Session.

Though admitted, the House was adjourned after the motion, with discussions scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday. Each day will have two hours of debate on the issue, while Wednesday is a holiday for Karam Puja. The Speaker urged all parties to participate constructively, emphasizing that the matter concerns the language, culture, and rights of Bengalis working outside the state.

The discussions are expected to go beyond migrant harassment. Legislators may also raise concerns over the Election Commission's upcoming Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal and the fate of the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill. The Bill, which prescribes harsher punishment for crimes like rape and rape-murder, was sent back by President Droupadi Murmu in July for reconsideration after the Union government sought clarifications.

Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay highlighted growing anxiety among people in West Bengal regarding reports of mistreatment of migrant workers. "We expect that all parties will discuss this peacefully. The interest of Bengali-speaking people is at the core of this motion," he said.

The motion reflects increasing political focus on the welfare of migrant workers, many of whom are employed across India in construction, services, and industry. By scheduling dedicated debates, the Assembly aims to give the matter priority attention and signal its seriousness to both citizens and the Centre.

Supriya Sule slams BJP over Maratha quota issue

PUNE

NCP (SP) Working President Supriya Sule on Monday criticized the BJP for repeatedly blaming her father, Sharad Pawar, on the Maratha reservation issue despite holding power in Maharashtra and at the Centre. She said it was "funny" that a party with over 300 MPs and a majority in the state still turns to Pawar whenever pressure mounts.

Sule pointed out that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had earlier spoken in the Assembly about how Maratha reservation could be granted. "You are in power now, implement those measures," she urged, while demanding an all-party meeting, a Cabinet decision, and a special legislature session to resolve the matter within 24 hours.

Her comments came a day after Maratha activists gheraoed her following her meeting with protest leader Manoj Jarange-Patil, who is on an indefinite fast. Activists questioned why Pawar had not granted reservation during his four terms as chief minister. Sule responded that as a public representative, it was her moral duty to listen and address people's concerns.

She also highlighted the poor conditions at Azad Maidan, where Jarange-Patil is fasting, citing heavy rains, lack of electricity, and sanitation issues. Sule urged the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation and state government to improve facilities and immediately release the list of groups providing logistics to the protestors.

Mizoram begins four-month drive against drug menace

AIZAWL

The Mizoram government on Monday launched a four-month-long campaign-cum-operation to fight drug smuggling and abuse, a growing problem in the state. Home Minister K. Sapdanga inaugurated the initiative, which will run until December 31 and involve police, enforcement agencies, the Young Mizo Association (YMA), and village chiefs across all 11 districts.

Mizoram shares a 510 km unfenced border with Myanmar, making it a key transit route for methamphetamine tablets, heroin, and other contraband, including exotic animals. These drugs are smuggled into Mizoram and then transported to other Indian states and even Bangladesh through Assam and Tripura.

Inspector General of Police H. Ramthlengliana said Mizoram is the first northeastern state to launch such a large-scale anti-drug campaign. A special 30-member anti-drug squad will be deployed along the Myanmar border to support Assam Rifles and local volunteers. The plan aims to block at least 22 identified routes used by smugglers.

Experts estimate that only 10 to 12 percent of drugs smuggled from Myanmar are seized by enforcement agencies. The problem has already taken a toll on society — more than 50 people, including women, have died of drug abuse this year, while 351 deaths have been reported since 2020.

Chief Minister Lalduhoma recently called drug abuse the "biggest threat" to Mizoram, citing its proximity to the Golden Triangle, one of the world's largest drug trafficking hubs. He urged collective efforts to fight smuggling, drug abuse, and related challenges like HIV/AIDS.

ECI receives 144 claims from Bihar parties

Electors filed 2.53 lakh claims; 40,630 resolved. Bihar saw 16.56 lakh claims, 91,462 disposed

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday announced that only 144 claims and objections were filed by political parties in Bihar on the draft roll of 7.24 crore electors, as the submission window closed. Among these, the CPI (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation submitted 118 requests — 15 for inclusion and 103 for exclusion. The BJP filed 16 objections for exclusion, while the RJD submitted 10 requests for inclusion.

In contrast, electors themselves submitted nearly 2.53 lakh claims and objections for voter inclusion or removal of ineligible names. Of these, 40,630 have already been resolved. In total, 16.56 lakh claims and objections were filed by individuals across Bihar, with 91,462 disposed of so far.

The filing process was part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which began on June 24 and published its draft on August 1. The deadline for filing claims ended on September 1.

The ECI responded to criticism from Congress and RJD, who alleged the revision process was aimed at disenfranchisement. The Commission clarified that generic complaints without proper forms were not counted as valid. It stressed that names cannot be deleted without an official order from Electoral Registration Officers after due inquiry.

The Commission further stated that the draft roll, published on August 1, included reasons for non-inclusion, available on district websites and the CEO portal in searchable form using EPIC numbers. Citizens could file claims through Form 6 with Aadhaar or objections through Form 7 until September 1.

The ECI reiterated that even non-electors can file objections within a constituency if they provide a declaration under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

FORM III

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/1345/2025-26 **Date:01.09.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for Widening of **Panathur-Kadubeesanahalli Main Road from Kadubeesanahalli Bridge Outer Ring Road (ORR) to Panathur Main Road RMP Road Till RHS side Turning (Ch: 0.00m to 810.00m) as per RMP-2015 for the width of 18.00m.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued

Name of the District: Bengaluru Urban, Name of theTaluk: Bangalore East, Name of the Village: Panathuru

Khatha no.	Block	Sy. No	Type of land		Nature of land			Dimension of the land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, factory, Apartment, Individual House etc.)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for which DRC is to be issued
			Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sq.M	Type of Construction and No,. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Khatha No.4286, M.C No.219	(Block-I)	82/9	Vacant Land		Converted Land				14.68	Sy No.82/1A1	Road	Sy No.82/7	Sy No.82/1B	None	None	None	Vacant	60,000/-	1. Smt.Vijayakumari W/o Dhananjaya Reddy, R/at No.901, Shrisayi Nilaya, 5th A Main, Chowdeshwari Layout, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 2. Smt.P.K Padmavathi W/o S.K Narayana Reddy, R/at No.536, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Kempegowda Layout, 3rd Phase, 3rd Block, Bangalore-560065. Represent by G.P.A Holder Sri.P.K Jayachandra Reddy S/o Late M.P Krishnappa @ Late M.P Krishna Reddy
		82/8							17.22										
	(Block-II)	82/9							48.35	Road	K.No.4286, M.C NO.219 & Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/8 & 9	Sy No.82/7	Sy No.82/1B	None	None	None	Vacant	60,000/-	
		82/8							50.23										

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No:ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.09.2024.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub Divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

FORM III

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/1346/2025-26 **Date:01.09.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for Widening of **Panathur-Kadubeesanahalli Main Road from Kadubeesanahalli Bridge Outer Ring Road (ORR) to Panathur Main Road RMP Road Till RHS side Turning (Ch: 0.00m to 810.00m) as per RMP-2015 for the width of 18.00m.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

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Sy. No /Khatha no.	Block	Type of land		Nature of land			Dimension of the land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, factory, Apartment, Individual House etc.)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for which DRC is to be issued
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sq.M	Type of Construction and No,. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy No.82/6	(Block-I)	Vacant Land		Converted Land			163.16		Sy No.82/1A2, 82/1A3& 82/4	Road	Sy No.82/5	Sy No.82/7	None	None	None	Vacant	60,000/-	Sri.P.K Vijayaraghava Reddy S/o M.P Krishna Reddy R/at No.05, Srirama Temple Road, Panathuru, Bangalore-560103. Represent by G.P.A Holder Sri.P.K Jayachandra Reddy S/o Late M.P Krishnappa @ Late M.P Krishna Reddy
	(Block-II)						211.20		Sy No.82/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/6	Sy No.82/5	Sy No.82/7	None	None	None	Vacant	60,000/-	

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No:ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.09.2024.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub Divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

QUICK READ

Three dead as bus hits truck in Telangana

Mahabubnagar

Three people died and five were injured when a private bus crashed into a container truck on National Highway 44 near Katavaram in Mahabubnagar district, Telangana, early Monday morning. The bus, carrying 31 passengers from Hyderabad to Proddatur, hit the truck from behind, damaging the front of the bus badly. The victims were identified as Afrozunissa (70), Hasan (35), and Yellamma (45). Police suspect the bus was speeding. The injured were taken to Mahabubnagar government hospital. Police have registered a case and are investigating. In a separate incident, a speeding car crashed into a showroom in Hyderabad but caused no injuries.

Odisha man arrested for Rs 16 lakh cyber fraud

Bhubaneswar

Odisha Police arrested Partha Sarathi Das, 64, from Balasore for cheating people of Rs 16 lakh using a fake investment app called 'Huge App.' The app promised high returns if users gave five-star reviews and recruited others. About 200 people paid Rs 16,500 each to join. Some initially got returns, encouraging more to invest. Later, members were asked for extra fees, and the app stopped working on August 19. Victims, mostly poor residents of Cuttack, lost money. Police traced Das through bank and phone records. He is now in custody while the investigation continues.

DHCBA raises concern over judicial transfers

New Delhi

The Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA) has voiced worries about frequent judge transfers in the Delhi High Court. They say this may hurt lawyers' morale and reduce public trust in the courts. The DHCBA noted that nearly one-third of judges now come from other states. While they welcome diversity, local judges understand Delhi's legal and social environment better, helping maintain stability. The Bar also criticized that it is rarely consulted on transfers or promotions. The DHCBA called for more transparency and cooperation to keep faith in the justice system strong, urging better dialogue with the judiciary.

Fadnavis vows to uphold Constitution amid protests

CM recalled past Maratha reservations by his and Shinde's governments; current MahaYuti considers demands legally

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday stressed that his government would not act outside the framework of the Constitution while addressing the ongoing demand for Maratha reservation under the OBC quota. He said any decision taken beyond the law would not survive court scrutiny and could ultimately cheat the people.

Fadnavis made the remarks as pro-Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil intensified his protest in Mumbai. "No matter how much anyone criticises me, I cannot go beyond what is in the Constitution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The Supreme Court and High Court have already given verdicts. We cannot ignore them," he said.

The Chief Minister recalled that both his and Eknath Shinde's governments had extended reservation benefits to the Maratha community earlier. He added that the current MahaYuti government was considering the present demands but within legal limits.

Commenting on the ruckus during NCP (Sharad Pawar) MP Supriya Sule's visit to Azad Maidan, Fadnavis said leaders must be treated with respect and warned against creating disturbances. He urged all sides to seek solutions through dialogue rather than rigid stances.

The Chief Minister explained that a cabinet sub-committee, led by Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, was examining the issue, consulting legal experts, and studying earlier judgments. "The government runs by law. We will use all legal provisions to find a solution," he assured.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Amit Thackeray appealed to his party workers to support the protesters with food, water, and medical aid, ensuring no Maratha activist feels abandoned.

Fadnavis reiterated that any decision must respect social balance and endure in law rather than serve as a temporary appeasement.

Experts LAUD PM Modi, SCO for stance on Pahalgam terror attack

NEW DELHI

The Tianjin Declaration condemned the attack, urged anti-terror cooperation; PM Modi thanked supporters, criticized nations indirectly backing terrorism, with Pakistan's PM present

Experts welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong stance on cross-border terrorism at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, praising the joint statement condemning the Pahalgam terror attack. The April 22 strike left several dead and injured, prompting SCO member states to stress that perpetrators must be brought to justice.

The Tianjin Declaration issued by the SCO Council of Heads of State condemned the attack, offered condolences to victims' families, and called for international cooperation to prevent terrorism and stop the cross-border movement of militants. PM Modi, addressing the summit with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif present, thanked member states supporting India and criticised nations backing terrorism indirectly.

Experts said India's position highlighted its capability and commitment to security. Former diplomat Mahesh Sachdev noted that India's participation adds diversity and strength to the SCO, reflecting its role as the world's largest democracy and a growing economy. Defence expert Captain Anil Gaur (Retd) emphasised that Modi's remarks targeted double standards in global counterterrorism, noting that China and Pakistan were present during the discussions.

PM Modi also met Chinese President Xi Jinping, discussing border issues and ways to strengthen bilateral ties. Former UP DGP Prakash Singh called the discussions "encouraging" but noted concerns over the lack of detailed border talks.

Foreign affairs expert Brijesh Mishra underlined the geopolitical significance of the summit amid US tariff hikes, noting SCO's role in supporting developing nations alongside BRICS. Experts praised India's firm stance on cross-border terrorism and its refusal to compromise national interests despite external pressures. The summit reaffirmed India's commitment to global security and cooperation against terrorism while promoting regional stability.

UPSC's 92 Air Force Flying branch vacancies include two for women; 90 open to all genders

Delhi High Court orders IAF to appoint woman officer

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Indian Air Force (IAF) to appoint a woman candidate to the Flying branch under the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Naval Academy Examination 2023, after finding 20 vacancies left unfilled despite eligible women being available.

The UPSC had advertised 92 vacancies for the Air Force Flying branch, including two reserved for women. The court ruled that the remaining 90 vacancies were open to all candidates, not exclusively for men, citing the Supreme Court's stance on gender neutrality in recruitment. Justice C. Hari Shankar and Justice Om Prakash Shukla said interpreting vacancies in a gender-skewed manner is impermissible.

The petitioning candidate had cleared all selection stages and possessed the mandatory "fit to fly" certificate. Her advocate argued that while she ranked seventh on the women's merit list, she was denied appointment as only two seats were reserved for women. Meanwhile, 70 of the 90 general vacancies were filled by men, leaving 20 seats unfilled, which the court said could be offered to eligible female candidates.

The Centre contended that unfilled vacancies would be compensated through other recruitment channels like AFCAT or CDS exams, but the court disagreed, noting the UPSC notification encouraged gender balance and the inclusion of women.

The bench observed, "We are no longer in times when discrimination could be made between male and female candidates for entry into the armed forces or elsewhere." The notification did not specify 90 seats for men, preventing any gender-skewed interpretation. The ruling reinforces equal opportunity for women in IAF Flying branch recruitment and upholds gender-neutral principles in defence services selection.

WBSSC scam: ED probes relatives' accounts of arrested TMC MLA

KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is scrutinising the bank accounts, assets, and properties of close relatives of Trinamool Congress MLA Jiban Krishna Saha, arrested in connection with the multi-crore school-job scam in West Bengal. Saha, representing Burwan Assembly constituency in Murshidabad, was taken into ED custody on August 25 after a parallel probe by the CBI. Officials said the accounts of his parents and wife are under "forensic analysis and financial scrutiny" to determine proceeds of the scam. His relatives' properties are also being examined for "disproportionate assets." The case alleges that Saha secured jobs for ineligible candidates even after the recruitment panel had expired, taking advance money from job seekers. Former WBSSC official Santi Prasad Sinha reportedly aided in recommending 75 ineligible candidates. Each candidate allegedly paid around Rs 7 lakh via a middleman to obtain jobs illegally.

BJP women protest over remarks on Prime Minister's mother

RANCHI

The BJP Mahila Morcha staged a large protest in Ranchi on Monday against alleged objectionable remarks made about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother during a recent Congress event in Bihar.

Hundreds of BJP women gathered at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium and began a march towards the Congress headquarters on Shraddhanand Road. However, their rally was stopped by police near Ranchi University, leading to a brief scuffle.

According to eyewitnesses, protesters attempted to breach police barricades, but were pushed back. Some women reportedly suffered minor injuries during the altercation. BJP leaders insisted their march was peaceful, but accused the police of using unnecessary force.

The protest was led by senior leaders including Arti Kujur, Kumud Jha, Payal Soni, and Neelam Chaudhary. They strongly condemned the Congress, accusing the party of disrespecting women by allowing such comments against the Prime Minister's mother.

In anticipation of unrest, heavy police deployment and barricading were in place around the Congress office. Additional forces were kept ready.

In a later statement, the Jharkhand BJP said: "Congress has insulted not just one mother, but women across India. Their hunger for power has blinded them to decency. The people will not forgive this."

Four arrested in attack on Kerala journalist

THODUPUZHA

Kerala police have arrested four men in connection with the attempted murder of journalist Shajan Skaria. The suspects were caught while hiding in Bengaluru, days after attacking Skaria near Thodupuzha on Saturday night. One more suspect remains at large. Police said the attack was a planned assault, and the arrested men fled Kerala immediately after the incident. The investigation team tracked them using mobile phone locations and social media activity. The alleged mastermind, CPI-M worker Mathews Kollappilly, is already in custody. According to Skaria, the group followed him from Thiruvananthapuram and hit his car from behind near Mangattukavala, before dragging him out and beating him. A Thar jeep was used in the attack.

Gujarat clears plan to upgrade rural roads

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has approved a Rs 2,609-crore plan to resurface and improve 1,258 rural roads covering 4,196 km across the state. The move aims to strengthen rural connectivity, ensure smoother travel, and provide villagers with all-weather roads.

According to officials, the project will cover 487 roads (1,609 km) in north Gujarat, 499 roads (1,528 km) in south Gujarat, and 272 roads (1,059 km) in Saurashtra. The decision follows repeated appeals from local leaders and rural communities who sought durable roads for daily use and economic activities.

The upgraded network is expected to ease movement within villages, improve access to towns and cities, and support agricultural and trade activities. Better roads are also seen as a way to improve healthcare access, education, and employment opportunities for rural populations.

Gujarat already has one of India's most extensive road systems, spanning more than 1.63 lakh km, including highways, expressways, and village routes. The state built India's first expressway — the Ahmedabad-Vadodara route — and continues to expand connectivity through major projects.

The government has also linked infrastructure to broader development goals, including industrial corridors, logistics hubs, and the Mumbai–Ahmedabad bullet train project. By prioritising rural roads, Gujarat hopes to balance urban and rural growth.

Indian Naval ships conclude Jeddah port call

NEW DELHI

Indian Naval warships INS Tamal and INS Surat completed their port call at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on August 30, underscoring growing maritime cooperation between the two nations. The ships also conducted a Passage Exercise with Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) Corvette HMS Jazan before resuming deployment.

During the stay, the vessels engaged with Saudi naval forces and the Border Guard through sports events, personnel interactions, and cultural exchanges. The Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, visited INS Tamal on August 28. Commanding officers of both ships also met senior Saudi naval and border commanders to discuss non-traditional security threats in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. Joint operations and enhanced information sharing were highlighted as priorities.

A cultural programme aboard INS Tamal brought together Saudi officials, Indian diplomats, and members of the diaspora. Officials said the visit strengthened defence collaboration and paved the way for future naval engagements.

Earlier, INS Tamal received a warm welcome as the Navy's newest stealth frigate arrived at Jeddah on August 27 during its voyage from Russia, post-commissioning. Before Jeddah, the ship visited Greece's Souda Bay, where its crew interacted with the Hellenic Navy, NATO officers, and US Navy representatives. Discussions focused on operational cooperation, and Indian crew also visited the Italian Navy's amphibious assault ship ITS Trieste.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

FORM III

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/1333/2025-26 **Date:01.09.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Widening of Channasandra-Hennuru Road from Channasandra-Kalkere Main Road to Hennur Main Road via Horamavu Lake and Banjara Layout as per RMP-2015 for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan for the width of 24.00mtrs Ch:0.00Mtrs to 1037.00Mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued

Name of the District:Bengaluru Urban, Name of the Taluk : Bengaluru East, Name of the Village: Panathuru

Sy. No. Khatha No.	Type of land		Nature of land			Dimension of the land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the land				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, factory, Apartment, Individual House etc.)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.M	Type of Construction and No,. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy No.264/9	Vacant Land		Agriculture Land			480.56		Sy No.264/5	Sy No.264/1	Sy No.264/3,4	Sy No.264/1	None	None	None	Vacant	85,000/-	Smt.Muni Anjanamma W/o M.Akkappa, Residing at No.443, Channasandra Main Road, Kalkere, Bangalore-560043.

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No:ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.09.2024.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub Divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

QUICK READ

Yemen Mourns Houthi Officials

Sanaa

Thousands gathered at Yemen's largest mosque in Sanaa on Monday to mourn 12 senior Houthi officials, including the prime minister, killed in an Israeli airstrike last Thursday. The attack, which struck during a televised address by leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi, left much of the Houthi cabinet dead. Mohammed Miftah, now acting head of the Houthi government, vowed revenge and a crackdown on international spies, calling the strike a move by the "strongest intelligence empire" targeting Yemen. Amid chants against Israel and the U.S., the Houthis also launched a missile at an Israeli-owned tanker in the Red Sea, reaffirming their commitment to retaliatory attacks.

Thai People's Party Stays Unsure

Bangkok

Thailand's opposition People's Party has not yet determined which camp it will support in forming a new coalition government, a party official said on Monday. As the largest parliamentary force, holding nearly a third of seats, the party convened a meeting of its lawmakers to discuss the matter and will hold further talks on Tuesday. Spokesperson Parit Wacharasindhu noted the party favors an early dissolution of parliament and new elections. The People's Party has also confirmed that it will not join the next government.

N. Korea's Kim Jong Un Travels to China

Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un departed Pyongyang by train on Monday to attend a military parade in Beijing, marking his first participation in a major multilateral diplomatic event, Yonhap News Agency reported. Invited by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the parade on Wednesday will commemorate Japan's formal surrender in World War Two. Russian President Vladimir Putin is also expected to attend. Analysts anticipate Kim will hold separate talks with Xi and Putin. His rare foreign trip contrasts with his father and grandfather, who had limited multilateral diplomatic engagements.

Putin claims progress with Trump on Ukraine peace talks while blaming the West for the conflict.

Putin Cites 'Understandings' with Trump Over End of Ukraine War

TIANJIN

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that he had reached "understandings" with former U.S. President Donald Trump regarding a potential resolution to the war in Ukraine during their Alaska meeting last month. Speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, where he met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Putin did not clarify whether he would agree to peace talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, which Trump reportedly set a Monday deadline for.

Putin reiterated his justification for Russia's invasion, blaming the West for the conflict and accusing it of provoking Ukraine and attempting to integrate the country into NATO. He stressed that the crisis stems from a 2014 coup in Ukraine, not Russia's military actions, and emphasized his opposition to Ukraine joining the Western military alliance.

Following the Alaska summit, U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff stated that Putin had agreed in principle to security guarantees for Ukraine, though Moscow has yet to confirm this. Trump suggested a permanent peace deal rather than a ceasefire, with Europe providing a defensive role and the U.S. offering "Article 5-like" security assurances, without deploying troops. Zelensky expects a formal security framework to be outlined soon but has rejected proposals for a buffer zone, accusing Russia of delaying negotiations.

Meanwhile, Russian military operations continue, with a recent drone and missile attack on Kyiv killing 23 civilians, prompting European leaders, including Germany and France, to intensify diplomatic pressure on Moscow to reach a peace settlement.

Israel Advances in Gaza City as Civilians Flee Amid Airstrikes

CAIRO

Israeli forces advance into Gaza City as airstrikes and explosives force civilians to flee amid escalating conflict.

Israeli forces pushed tanks further into Gaza City on Monday and detonated explosives-laden vehicles in the eastern Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, while airstrikes killed at least 19 civilians, Palestinian officials and witnesses reported. Residents described chaotic scenes, with families fleeing homes as explosions and drone surveillance continued through the night. Leaflets dropped by the Israeli military urged residents to move south, warning of an expanded offensive.

The International Association of Genocide Scholars said Israel's actions in Gaza meet the legal criteria for genocide, though Israel has denied such allegations. Israeli officials did not immediately respond to the city offensive or the scholars' statement.

Israel is advancing a plan to take full control of Gaza, aiming to dismantle Hamas and rescue the remaining 48 hostages held since the October 2023 attacks. Gaza health authorities reported at least 98 Palestinians killed in the past 24 hours, with nine more deaths from starvation and malnutrition, bringing such fatalities to 348, including 127 children. Israel disputes the hunger-related figures, attributing the deaths to other medical causes.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a security cabinet meeting Sunday to plan the Gaza City offensive, amid warnings that the operation could endanger hostages. Protests in Israel demanding an end to the war and the release of hostages have intensified.

Since October 2023, over 63,000 people, mostly civilians, have died in Gaza due to the conflict, which continues to devastate the enclave and its humanitarian situation. Ceasefire negotiations remain stalled.

At least five crew members, including two pilots, were killed when a helicopter crashed in Gilgit-Baltistan's Chilas.

Helicopter Crash in PoK's Gilgit-Baltistan Claims 5 Lives

ISLAMABAD

At least five crew members, including two pilots, were killed on Monday when a helicopter crashed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Gilgit-Baltistan region, officials confirmed. The incident occurred in the Chilas area of Diamer district, according to a statement by Gilgit-Baltistan government spokesperson Faizullah Faraq.

"The helicopter crashed in Thor, Chilas, and the crew comprised two pilots and three technical staff," Faraq said. Diamer Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Hameed confirmed all five onboard perished in the crash. Authorities said the aircraft was carrying out a test landing on a newly proposed helipad at the time of the accident. The exact cause of the crash has not yet been determined, and investigations are underway to ascertain what led to the tragic incident.

This is the second helicopter crash reported in the region in recent weeks. Last month, a helicopter operated by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government went down under unclear circumstances, raising concerns over aviation safety in Pakistan's northern areas.

Rescue teams were dispatched to the crash site to recover the bodies and secure the wreckage. Local officials have called for a thorough investigation to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The fatalities mark a significant loss for the region's aviation operations, particularly as helicopters play a critical role in connecting remote areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, including transport, rescue, and medical missions. Authorities have urged caution and strict adherence to safety protocols during all ongoing helicopter operations in the region.

Trump Shrugs Off #TrumpIsDead Rumors

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump dismissed online speculation about his health on Monday, posting on Truth Social that he has "never felt better" in his life. The remarks came amid the viral hashtag #TrumpIsDead, which gained traction after the White House released a blank schedule last week. Trump also shared a photo of himself playing golf to quell rumors, though some users questioned its authenticity.

Conservative commentator DC Draino criticized what he called media "double standards," noting that President Joe Biden can remain absent from public view for days without concern, whereas Trump's brief disappearances trigger alarm. Responding in all caps, Trump declared: "NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE. Also, DC IS A CRIME-FREE ZONE! President DJT."

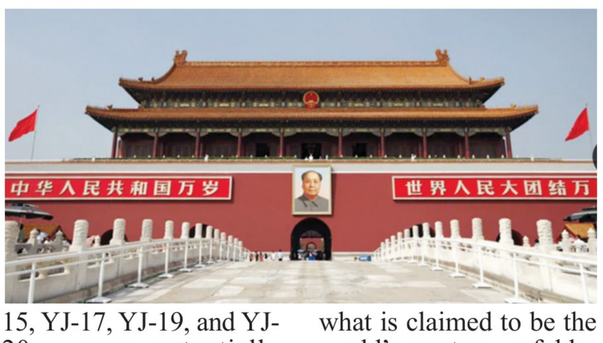
Vice President JD Vance reinforced Trump's vigor in an interview, saying the 79-year-old remains active, often the first to rise and last to sleep, while acknowledging unforeseen events are always possible.

Speculation was partly fueled by visible bruises on Trump's hand and swelling in his leg. White House doctors attributed these to frequent handshakes and daily aspirin use, emphasizing no cause for concern.

Even cultural commentary added to the buzz, with The Simpsons creator Matt Groening joking about the show ending "when you-know-who dies." Despite the chatter, Trump maintains he is fit, energetic, and ready for his duties.

China to Display Cutting-Edge Weapons at Military Parade

BEIJING



China is set to unveil an array of advanced military hardware during a massive parade at Tiananmen Square on September 3, signalling its growing military ambitions and challenging US dominance. Officials have confirmed that all equipment is domestically produced and currently in active service.

Recent social media posts and rehearsal footage reveal anti-ship missiles, state-of-the-art underwater drones, anti-missile systems, and possibly a massive laser weapon.

While the complete roster remains confidential, observers have identified significant additions, including four new "Ying Ji" (Eagle Attack) anti-ship missiles — YJ-15, YJ-17, YJ-19, and YJ-20 — some potentially hypersonic, capable of striking large vessels at speeds over five times that of sound.

China is also expanding its underwater fleet with extra-large uncrewed vehicles such as the AJX002, measuring up to 20 metres, forming the world's largest XLUUV programme.

The parade is expected to feature the HQ-29, a wheeled missile system that may intercept missiles and satellites at altitudes up to 500 km, alongside what is claimed to be the world's most powerful laser air defence system. Intercontinental ballistic missiles carrying nuclear warheads are likely to appear, reinforcing China's strategic deterrence. In addition, next-generation armoured vehicles, including a new tank smaller than the Type 99A, have been spotted. Analysts say the parade will demonstrate a major upgrade in China's military capabilities, though the ceremonial setting limits assessment of operational performance.

Xi and Putin Advocate New Global Order at SCO Summit

TIANJIN

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin outlined their vision for a new global security and economic order at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on Monday, emphasizing the interests of the "Global South" and challenging the current U.S.-led system. Xi, hosting more than 20 non-Western leaders, called for the democratization of international relations, stronger representation for developing nations, and multilateralism, criticizing hegemonism and power politics without detailing concrete policies for his "Global Governance Initiative."

Highlighting the SCO's economic potential, Xi promoted inclusive globalization amid disruption from U.S. tariffs and pledged 2 billion yuan in aid, 10 billion yuan in loans to an SCO banking consortium, and an artificial intelligence cooperation center for member states. He also proposed a new SCO development bank, advancing the bloc's goal of an alternative payment system beyond the U.S. dollar.

Putin praised the SCO for reviving genuine multilateralism, noting growing use of national currencies in regional trade and calling for a balanced security system in Eurasia that avoids privileging any single country. The summit also provided a platform for China to strengthen ties with India, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized development cooperation and trade improvements.

The meeting attracted leaders from Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East, reinforcing SCO's role as a security-focused and increasingly influential bloc in global governance.

Houthis Launch Missile at Red Sea Tanker

SANAA

Yemen's Houthi rebels on Monday claimed responsibility for firing a missile at a tanker in the Red Sea, days after their prime minister was killed in an Israeli airstrike. The Iran-backed group, which sank two tankers in July, said it targeted the Liberian-flagged Scarlet Ray and claimed a direct hit.

Maritime authorities, however, disputed this. The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported the crew observed a splash near the vessel from an unidentified projectile and heard a loud explosion, but confirmed all personnel were safe and the tanker continued sailing. Maritime security firm Ambrey identified the ship as Israeli-owned.

The attack comes amid rising tensions after Houthi Prime Minister Ahmed Ghaleb Nasser al-Rahawi and other officials were killed Saturday. On Sunday, Houthis stormed UN offices, detaining 11 staff, adding to 23 already held since 2021 and 2023.

SCO BACKS INDIA

SCO Condemns Pahalgam Attack, Backs India on Terror Fight

TIANJIN

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Monday strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and endorsed India's position that "double standards" in combating terrorism are unacceptable. The declaration, released at the conclusion of the SCO's two-day annual summit, emphasized the grouping's firm resolve to fight terrorism, extremism, and separatism.

The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and other global leaders. The SCO also expressed solidarity with victims of terror attacks in Khuzdar and on the Jaffer Express in Pakistan's Balochistan province, offering condolences to families of the deceased and injured, while stressing that perpetrators, organisers, and sponsors must be brought to justice.

In addition to counter-terrorism, the SCO condemned Israel's military strikes in Gaza, noting the high civilian casualties and a catastrophic humanitarian situation. The declaration highlighted the need to enhance regional security and identified terrorism as a key challenge.

The member states stressed the inadmissibility of using terrorist, separatist, or extremist groups for "mercenary purposes" and recognized the primary role of sovereign states and their competent authorities in addressing such threats.

The SCO reaffirmed that terrorism in all forms must be opposed and called on the international community to address cross-border terrorist movements. It underlined the central role of the United Nations in implementing Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in line with the UN Charter and international law, to collectively combat all terrorist groups.

World Running Out of Time on Climate Action: COP30 Chief

NEW DELHI

The world faces the risk of "running out of time" to address climate change unless countries cooperate, COP30 President Andre Correa do Lago warned on Monday, emphasizing the urgent need to bridge political and financial divides between developed and developing nations.

Criticizing US President Donald Trump's reluctance to engage in climate talks, Correa do Lago noted, "The problem is that he does not want to discuss emissions from specific countries." Trump has twice withdrawn the US from the Paris Agreement, with reentry only occurring under the Biden administration.

Highlighting the longstanding divide between wealthy and poorer nations, Correa do Lago said developing countries stress the need for support in pursuing cleaner growth, while developed nations often focus on commitments without sufficient assistance. "This divide is very strong…science tells us we have very little time," he added, urging that climate action should simultaneously create jobs, improve lives, and promote a greener economy. COP30, scheduled for November in Belem, Brazil, will be the first UN climate summit hosted in the Amazon region. COP30 CEO Ana Toni highlighted that pollution control offers a chance to link climate goals with health and development, focusing on air quality, methane reduction, and cleaner transport in developing nations. Leaders from nearly 200 countries are expected to review progress since the Paris Agreement and strengthen commitments on emissions, finance, and clean energy transition.

QUICK READ

Zydus Wellness Shares Rise by 7%

Ahmedabad

Shares of Zydus Wellness jumped over 7% on Monday after the company announced its first international acquisition. The Ahmedabad-based firm will acquire UK health and wellness company Comfort Click Ltd for £239 million through subsidiary Alidac UK. Comfort Click, active in the fast-growing vitamins, minerals, and supplements (VMS) segment, reported FY2025 revenues of £134 million with a five-year CAGR of 57%. Analysts said the deal strengthens Zydus Wellness' global presence and complements its existing brands, including Sugar Free, Everyuth, Nutrilla, and Complan.

M&M sales dip 1 pc in August

New Delhi

Mahindra & Mahindra sold 39,399 utility vehicles in August, down 9% from 43,277 units last year. Domestic tractor sales rose to 26,201 units, compared with 20,518 a year ago, taking total tractor sales to 28,117 units versus 21,917 earlier. Tractor exports climbed to 1,916 units, up from 1,399. CEO Nalinikanth Gollaguntа said wholesale billing was lowered ahead of the GST announcement. Overall, truck and bus sales fell 9% to 1,701 units. Shares gained 2.93% to Rs 3,292 on BSE

TCA Kalyani Takes Charge as New CG

New Delhi

TCA Kalyani, a 1991-batch ICAS officer, on Monday assumed charge as India's 29th Controller General of Accounts (CGA). With over 34 years in public service, she has served key ministries including Defence, Telecom, Finance, and Home Affairs, and played a pivotal role in initiatives like the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for farmers. Kalyani also led digital transformations at MTNL and helped revive Fertiliser Corporation of India. A Gold Medallist from Delhi University, she holds an MA and MPhil, bringing expertise in financial management, governance, and accounting.

Manufacturing Growth Hits 17.5-Year High in August

India's manufacturing sector recorded its strongest expansion in nearly two decades, driven by resilient local demand.

MUMBAI

India's manufacturing sector expanded at its fastest pace in 17.5 years in August, buoyed by strong local demand, even as export growth faltered under new US tariffs.

According to the HSBC-S&P Global survey, the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 59.3 from July's 59.1. The uptick was powered by pre-festive domestic demand, which more than offset weakening international orders. Production volumes grew at their quickest pace in nearly five years, with intermediate goods leading the surge, followed by capital and consumer goods.

HSBC India's chief economist Pranjul Bhandari said the robust PMI highlighted the ability of domestic demand to cushion the drag from slowing exports. She noted that new orders in August matched July's momentum, which had been the fastest in nearly five years.

The survey also pointed to a sharp divergence: while international orders rose only marginally—the weakest increase in five months—domestic buyers drove demand, aided by successful advertising and marketing campaigns. The slowdown in exports was linked to the US decision to impose 50% tariffs on Indian goods, which prompted American buyers to hold back.

Employment remained a bright spot, with manufacturers expanding their workforce for the 18th consecutive month, though job growth slowed to its weakest since November 2024. Optimism about future output remained firm, with firms accelerating material purchases in anticipation of sustained demand.

Overall, analysts said the resilience of domestic consumption underlines India's strong economic fundamentals, positioning the manufacturing sector for steady growth despite external challenges.

SCO Nations Endorse Open, Fair Multilateral Trading System

TIANJIN

SCO leaders reaffirm support for an open, fair, and multilateral trading system, promoting economic, digital, and energy cooperation amid global tariff tensions

Leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, reaffirmed their commitment to an open, transparent, fair, and multilateral trading system grounded in universally accepted international rules. The declaration comes amid global economic uncertainty triggered by U.S. tariff measures.

The joint statement condemned unilateral coercive actions that violate the UN Charter or World Trade Organization norms, undermining fair competition, international cooperation, food and energy security, and progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SCO members emphasised the importance of people-centred economic cooperation to enhance living standards across the region.

The summit underscored implementation of the SCO Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation and the Economic Development Strategy up to 2030. Members committed to voluntary collaboration through special economic zones, including leveraging the China-SCO Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Demonstration Zone in Qingdao.

Leaders also promoted cooperation in digital trade, e-commerce infrastructure, innovation, and creative industries, aiming to boost competitiveness, employment, and SME growth, particularly in rural areas. Proposals included SCO Technoparks, innovation clusters, and the Alem AI International Centre for technological development.

Financial cooperation was highlighted, with plans to increase the use of national currencies in mutual settlements, support the reform of global financial institutions to enhance developing country representation, and establish an SCO Development Bank.

Additionally, members pledged to expand energy cooperation, improve sustainability of production and supply chains, and foster a non-discriminatory, balanced global energy market, while advancing green industry initiatives and sustainable investment among SCO nations.

Rupee Slips 17 Paise to 88.26 Amid FPI Outflows, U.S. Tariff Concerns

MUMBAI

The Indian rupee weakened by 17 paise to 88.26 against the U.S. dollar in early trade on Monday, September 1, 2025, as ongoing foreign fund outflows and U.S. tariff concerns weighed on investor sentiment.

Forex traders noted that the rupee opened on a soft note and could remain under pressure in the near term due to the combined impact of U.S. tariffs and continued portfolio outflows. At the interbank market, the currency began at 88.18 before slipping to an early low of 88.26, marking a decline from its previous close.

On Friday, August 29, the rupee had breached the 88 per dollar level for the first time, closing at an all-time low of 88.09. It also touched an intraday low of 88.31 after the Reserve Bank of India allowed it to move past 87.80, a level the central bank had been defending for six months, according to Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury at Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.

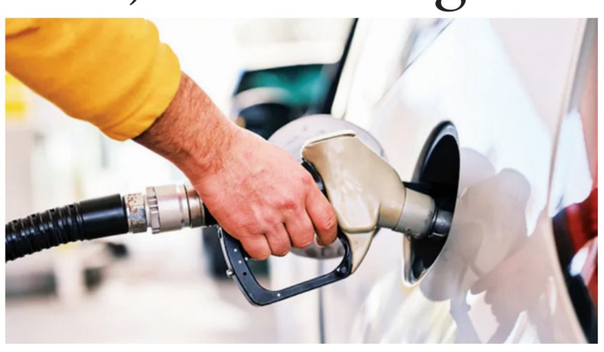
Bhansali added that the imposition of 50% tariffs by the U.S. could negatively affect portfolio inflows, even as trade talks continue between the two countries. While India's GDP grew 7.8% in Q1 of the fiscal year—its fastest pace in five quarters—the tariffs could lead to slower growth in the coming quarter due to trade and investment spillovers.

Meanwhile, the dollar index eased 0.07% to 97.70, and Brent crude traded 0.41% lower at $67.20 per barrel. On the domestic front, the Sensex rose 343 points to 80,153, and the Nifty added 106 points to 24,533. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth ₹8,313 crore on Friday, while India's forex reserves dropped $4.386 billion to $690.72 billion, reflecting RBI intervention to stabilize the rupee.

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea challenging India's E20 petrol mandate, reaffirming the government's ethanol blending programme.

Supreme Court Upholds E20 Petrol Mandate, Dismissing PIL

NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the Centre's Ethanol Blending Programme, which mandates the sale of E20 petrol—fuel blended with 20% ethanol.

The petition, filed by advocate Akshay Malhotra, cited a 2021 NITI Aayog report, raising concerns that older vehicles may not be compatible with E20. Senior Advocate Shadan Farasat clarified that the plea did not oppose ethanol blending but requested the continued availability of ethanol-free petrol (E0) for vehicles manufactured before April 2023, as using E20 in older vehicles could reduce fuel efficiency by about six percent. The petition also noted the limited availability of alternatives like E10 or E0, potentially causing consumer inconvenience.

However, the bench, led by Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran, dismissed the plea, effectively upholding the government's policy.

The Centre questioned whether "outsiders" should influence fuel choices for Indian consumers and emphasized that E20 adoption supports national energy security, environmental objectives, and domestic ethanol production.

E20 petrol, a key component of India's ethanol blending initiative, is aimed at reducing carbon emissions and fossil fuel dependence. With the Supreme Court's ruling, the mandatory sale of E20 petrol continues without exemptions for older vehicles, reaffirming the government's commitment to its ethanol blending programme.

India's Luggage Market Set for 5-7% Growth in FY26

NEW DELHI

India's Rs 18,000-crore luggage industry is expected to grow 5-7% in FY26, up from a 3% CAGR over the past three years, driven by rising leisure and corporate travel and higher demand for hard luggage, according to Crisil Ratings.

New-age manufacturers are set to capture 25% of the market, growing around 20%, surpassing legacy players who will see single-digit growth. The organised segment, holding 45% of the market, will lead this expansion.

These newer brands benefit from stylish, contemporary designs, e-commerce reach, low-cost production, and controlled overheads. Legacy players are also investing in online channels to maintain relevance. Operating margins are forecast to improve 150-200 basis points to 9.5-10%, aided by raw material rationalisation and inventory liquidation.

Consumers now prioritize durability, aesthetics, and utility, while rural buyers gradually shift from soft to hard luggage.

Congress Flags Concerns Over Q1 GDP

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday criticised the government's GDP numbers for the April-June 2025 quarter, calling them overly optimistic and pointing out that the effects of U.S. tariffs are yet to be felt. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the reported growth creates "irrational exuberance," as front-loading of exports to the U.S. by traders attempting to avoid tariffs temporarily boosted export figures, inflating the headline GDP growth.

Ramesh highlighted that while the economy posted a 7.8% growth rate—the fastest in five quarters—urban consumption remains weak, and rural consumption continues to face structural challenges. He also noted that nominal GDP growth, unadjusted for inflation, remains subdued compared with the January-March 2025 quarter.

"Consumption, investment, and trade are the primary drivers of GDP growth, yet nearly 1.8 percentage points of the quarterly growth rate are unaccounted for by these factors," Ramesh said, calling the discrepancy significant and in need of explanation. He added that sales growth in manufacturing continues to slow, despite profits showing some improvement.

The Congress leader warned that the "Trump tariff shock" has not yet impacted the economy and that its real consequences are expected to emerge in the second quarter, affecting key export sectors such as textiles.

Government data indicated that the first-quarter GDP growth was supported by strong performance in agriculture, along with robust contributions from services like trade, hotels, finance, and real estate. However, Congress cautioned that the temporary boost from pre-tariff exports may mask underlying weaknesses in domestic demand.

'IMC 2025 to Focus on Technology, Farmers, Students and MSMEs'

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Communications and Development of North East Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, on Monday highlighted that India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 will go beyond discussions on advanced technologies like 5G, 6G, AI, IoT, and machine-to-machine communication. The event, scheduled from October 8 to 11, will also explore how these innovations can positively impact farmers, students, MSMEs, and society at large.

Speaking at the launch of an AI-powered mobile application for the event, Scindia emphasized that this year's edition is guided by the theme "innovate and transform," aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atma Nirbharta (self-reliance) and India's journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047. He described IMC as "a platform of possibilities," where technology can create meaningful connections, collaborations, and real-world solutions.

The new app aims to enhance participant experience with features like live streaming of sessions, AI-driven personalised recommendations through "IMC Suggests," and seamless calendar integration. Networking opportunities for delegates, exhibitors, startups, investors, and partners are a key focus, with startups receiving special access to mentors and funders.

Additional tools include an AI-powered "Snippet" feature for creating shareable video clips, a Co-Pilot chatbot for instant assistance, and interactive elements like in-app photo booths, AI-based face recognition galleries, live polls, and contests to engage participants. Scindia noted that IMC 2025 will showcase not only the latest technological trends but also their potential to create new opportunities and hope across society, making it a truly inclusive and transformative event.

CASHLESS FACILITY SUSPENDED

Niva Bupa Halts Cashless Services at Max Hospitals

NEW DELHI

Niva Bupa Health Insurance on Monday announced the suspension of cashless treatment at Max Hospitals nationwide, affecting thousands of policyholders. Patients will now have to pay hospital bills upfront and claim reimbursement later.

Dr. Bhabhtosh Mishra, Director and COO of Niva Bupa, explained that the insurer's agreement with Max Hospitals expired in May 2025. Efforts to revise premiums and renew the agreement did not yield a consensus, prompting the temporary halt in cashless services. He noted that other insurers, including Star Health and Care Health, are facing similar challenges with Max Hospitals.

The insurer said the decision came after "exhausting all other options," citing administrative and process-related hurdles. Niva Bupa reassured customers that treatments at Max Hospitals can continue on a reimbursement basis and highlighted that its cashless facility remains active across over 10,000 partner hospitals nationwide. Max Hospitals has not yet responded to the developments. This issue extends beyond Niva Bupa, with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Care Health policyholders also potentially losing cashless access at several hospitals from September 1, following concerns raised by the Association of Healthcare Providers (India) or AHPI. Conflicting reports suggest AHPI may have issued an advisory reversing the suspension, though no official confirmation has been provided. The General Insurance Council criticised AHPI's move, warning that abrupt disruptions in cashless services could force patients into large upfront payments, endanger lives in emergencies, and undermine trust in health insurance. With rising healthcare costs and the IRDAI pushing for 100% cashless treatment nationwide, such disputes highlight the growing challenges of ensuring accessible and affordable medical care in India.

RUKMINI
joins Jr NTR's Dragon film

Rising star Rukmini Vasanth has officially joined the cast of Dragon, the upcoming action drama starring Jr NTR and directed by KGF filmmaker Prashanth Neel. The confirmation came from producer NV Prasad during the promotional event for her next release, Madharaasi. Rukmini shot to fame with the success of Saptha Sagara Dache Ello and has since become one of the most talked-about young actresses in the industry. Though rumours of her involvement in Dragon had been circulating for months, this is the first time the news has been confirmed publicly. Fans took to social media to celebrate the announcement, though an official statement from Rukmini or the film's team is still awaited.

Before Dragon, Rukmini will be seen in Madharaasi, directed by AR Murugadoss and starring Sivakarthikeyan. The film is expected to release soon and further cement her growing popularity. Dragon is already in production and is scheduled for a global theatrical release on June 25, 2026. The high-budget film will be released in multiple languages and is expected to be a major box-office event. With a strong cast and a powerful director at the helm, Dragon is one of the most awaited films of 2026.

B Praak shares pain behind his music

Popular singer B Praak believes the reason people connect with his music is because it comes straight from his heart. Known for emotional songs filled with love and heartbreak, the 39-year-old artist says his personal struggles shape every note he sings.

"My life has seen pain, struggles, and heartbreak," he shared, adding that these experiences have made him wiser and more honest in his music. "When I sing, I don't just focus on notes — I relive my past. That's what makes the emotion real," he said.

His latest release, Lagey Rabb Warga, is a heartfelt song that captures the joy and emotion of weddings. B Praak explained, "The lyrics by Mukku are simple but powerful. I sang it with soft notes and pauses to bring out every feeling."

He believes that music should carry both strength and softness. "Every beat feels like a fight, and every melody an emotion," he said, describing his unique style.

Whether it's a loud, action-packed film like Baaghi 4 or a soft romantic number, B Praak says he becomes the character the music needs.

For him, every song is a piece of his life — and that honesty is what touches hearts.

POOJA HEGDE
shares health update

Actress Pooja Hegde has revealed that she is currently unwell and taking time off to rest and recover. The popular star shared a photo from her Mumbai home on social media, where she is seen sitting on a sofa, cuddling her pet dog.

Along with the picture, she wrote, "Sick days… some rest and recovering was all that was needed." Her post quickly received thousands of comments from fans, who flooded her timeline with wishes for a speedy recovery. Known for her cheerful posts and lively updates, Pooja's candid health update struck a chord with her followers.

Despite feeling under the weather, the actress has been in the spotlight recently for her glamorous appearance as Monica in the special song from Rajinikanth's film Coolie. Her performance was widely praised and added to the film's buzz.

Looking ahead, Pooja Hegde is gearing up for her next big release, Jana Nayagan, where she stars opposite Thalapathy Vijay. The film is scheduled to hit screens during Sankranthi 2026 and is already one of the most anticipated releases of the season.

KARTHI'S VAA VAATHIYAAR LOCKS DECEMBER RELEASE DATE

Karthi's much-awaited 26th film Vaa Vaathiyaar is all set to hit theatres in December 2025. Directed by Nalan Kumarasamy, known for his unique storytelling in films like Soodhu Kavvum, the film skips a Diwali release to avoid clashes with other big Tamil films.

Vaa Vaathiyaar features Krithi Shetty as the female lead, while Sathyaraj plays the main antagonist. Veteran actor Raj Kiran also appears in a special role. The film's music is composed by Santhosh Narayanan, and the first single released earlier this year was well received, raising excitement among fans.

Karthi, who was last seen in Meiyazhagan and is currently working on Sardar 2, returns in a new cop avatar in Vaa Vaathiyaar. His December releases in the past, such as Biriyani and Thambi, have been box office hits, leading fans to believe the month could bring him another blockbuster.

Krithi Shetty, who is busy with several upcoming Tamil films, adds youthful charm to the film, while the strong supporting cast and gripping storyline are expected to be the film's major highlights.

With high expectations and a power-packed team, Vaa Vaathiyaar is one of the most awaited Tamil films of the year.

Cate Blanchett shines in Jarmusch's new film

Cate Blanchett's latest film, Father Mother Sister Brother, received a warm five-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival on Sunday night. Directed by indie filmmaker Jim Jarmusch, the movie had its world premiere at the festival's famous Sala Grande theater.

Blanchett, who plays twin sisters alongside Vicky Krieps, smiled as the audience cheered. Director Jarmusch showed appreciation by kissing the hands of his leading ladies, which included Blanchett, Krieps, Charlotte Rampling, Mayim Bialik, and Indya Moore. Actor Luka Sabbat represented the male cast, while Adam Driver and Tom Waits were absent. The film tells three emotional stories about families in different parts of the world. "Father" is set in the northeastern U.S., "Mother" takes place in Dublin, and "Sister Brother" is set in Paris. Each story explores the bonds between adult children and their distant parents. This is Jarmusch's first film at Venice since 2003's Coffee & Cigarettes. The film is produced by Saint Laurent Prods., Mubi, The Apartment, and others.

Mubi will handle the theatrical release in several countries, including the U.S., U.K., and India. With its emotional depth and international cast, Father Mother Sister Brother is already making waves this festival season.

'Tribanadhari Barbarik' director's sandal beating goes viral

Tribanadhari Barbarik, starring Sathyaraj, Udayabhanu, and Vashishta Simha, has struggled to attract audiences since its limited release, with theaters nearly empty. Director Mohan Srivatsa, deeply disappointed, shared his frustration in a viral Instagram video. He described visiting a screening attended by only about ten people, who praised the film despite its poor turnout. Srivatsa questioned why small-budget films like his fail to gain traction, contrasting them with the strong support often seen for Malayalam cinema.

Fulfilling a bold promise—"If I don't like this film, I will beat it with my sandal"—Srivatsa struck himself with a sandal in the video, sparking widespread online discussion. The dramatic gesture has divided social media, with some expressing sympathy for the struggles of independent filmmakers, while others debate the director's extreme response. This incident underscores the challenges small-budget films face in a competitive industry, prompting conversations about audience engagement and the viability of such projects in today's market.

NAG ASHWIN SHARES FILMING PLANS FOR KALKI 2

After the massive success of Kalki 2898 AD, fans have been eagerly waiting for news about its sequel. Director Nag Ashwin has now shared an important update on Kalki 2, revealing that filming is expected to begin by the end of 2025. Speaking on a podcast, Ashwin explained, "The actors need to align their dates. Some action and pre-visualized scenes are even bigger than before, so it's going to take time. I don't have a clear answer yet, as everyone is busy."

He added that even though the shoot may begin next year, the post-production process could stretch the timeline further. "Hopefully in another two or three years," he said, suggesting the release might happen around 2027 or 2028. Kalki 2898 AD, which released in June 2024, featured Prabhas and Deepika Padukone in lead roles and earned over ₹1,050 crore globally. The sci-fi epic also starred legendary actors Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan. Produced by Ashwini Dutt, the film's grand visuals and Santhosh Narayanan's music won praise from audiences and critics alike. With Kalki 2, expectations are even higher, and fans are ready to wait for another cinematic spectacle.

Vidyut Jammwal joins Street Fighter reboot

Bollywood action star Vidyut Jammwal is heading to Hollywood! The actor has officially joined the cast of the upcoming Street Fighter reboot, based on the popular video game series. Vidyut shared behind-the-scenes photos from the film's set in Sydney, Australia, posing with rapper 50 Cent and WWE superstar Cody Rhodes.

He captioned the post, "In the company of warriors, I find my tribe. #streetfighter," exciting fans who are thrilled to see him go global.

The film is directed by Kitao Sakurai (Bad Trip) and written by Dalan Musson (The Falcon and the Winter Soldier). Vidyut will play Dhalsim, a wise monk known for his fire powers and stretchable limbs — a character that fits Vidyut's martial arts talent perfectly.

RGV, Manoj reunite for horror comedy film

After 27 years, filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma and actor Manoj Bajpayee are coming together once again for a new horror comedy film titled Police Station Mein Bhoot. The two last worked together on the cult classic Satya in 1998, which became a landmark film in Indian cinema. RGV shared his excitement, saying, "Working with Manoj again after Satya feels both nostalgic and exciting. A police station is seen as a place of safety, so adding fear into that setting makes the story more gripping."

The movie also stars actress Genelia Deshmukh. Varma added, "With Manoj's powerful acting and Genelia's emotional depth, this film will explore fear in a new and unexpected way." The filming has already begun, and the first schedule is complete. The movie promises to mix fear, humor, and RGV's unique storytelling style. Satya, their earlier film, focused on crime in Mumbai and is seen as a turning point in gangster movies in Bollywood. It received critical praise and a National Film Award. The film helped launch realistic crime films in India and led to follow-ups like Company and Satya 2. Fans are eagerly waiting to see this exciting duo back in action.

Kannappa OTT release date set for September

Vishnu Manchu's film Kannappa is finally arriving on OTT, much to the delight of fans and movie lovers. The devotional entertainer, which released over two months ago, will be available for streaming on Prime Video starting September 4.

Despite some flaws, the film received praise for its sincere storytelling, a powerful last hour, and Vishnu Manchu's career-best performance. A major highlight was the special appearance by PAN India star Prabhas as Rudra. Other well-known actors including Akshay Kumar, Mohanlal, Mohan Babu, and Kajal Aggarwal also made cameo appearances.

The movie features Preity Mukhundhan as the female lead and is directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh. It was produced by Mohan Babu under the banners of AVA Entertainment and 24 Frames Factory.

Farhan Akhtar gives update on Jee Le Zaraa

Filmmaker Farhan Akhtar has confirmed that his much-awaited film Jee Le Zaraa is still in the works, though it has been delayed. Initially announced in 2021 with Alia Bhatt, Priyanka Chopra, and Katrina Kaif as leads, the film faced multiple scheduling issues. In an interview, Farhan shared that while the film is not shelved, it is currently "on the back burner."

He explained, "I would hate to say that it's shelved. It's a film that will happen. A lot of work has already been done — location scouting is finished, songs are recorded." However, when asked about the cast, he added, "I can't comment on that anymore. It depends on how things come together." Alia Bhatt had earlier stated that aligning schedules for the original trio was difficult but remained hopeful the film would be made.

Jee Le Zaraa was announced as a road-trip movie celebrating female friendships and was meant to mark Farhan's return to directing after Dil Chahta Hai.

In the meantime, Farhan is focused on his upcoming film 120 Bahadur, based on the 1962 Battle of Rezang La. The movie releases on November 21 and stars Raashii Khanna, Vivian Bhatena, and Eija Khan.

THE SCO SUMMIT IN CHINA SIGNALS A NEW WORLD ORDER?

This week, the northern Chinese city of Tianjin is playing host to one of the most consequential diplomatic gatherings of 2025: the 25th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). As influential leaders from Eurasia converge under the Upholding the Shanghai Spirit theme, the summit has emerged as a crucible for ideas and strategies poised to propel a historic shift in the global balance of power. On September 1, several path breaking decisions and alliances have come to light, pointing unmistakably to a future where old hierarchies especially economic ones are challenged and reconfigured.

The SCO's Geopolitical Context

Founded in 2001 by China and Russia as a security alliance focused on Central Asia, the SCO has rapidly evolved into one of the globe's largest and most powerful regional organizations, now comprised of 10 full member states. Its roster includes China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and, most recently, Belarus. Numerous other countries including Turkey and Egypt participate as observers, indicating the SCO's expanding international reach.

The 2025 summit is particularly significant. World politics are in flux, with U.S. trade tariffs rattling global supply chains, and mounting dissatisfaction among many major economies over dollar dominance and Western-centric institutions. Against this backdrop, Tainjin has become ground zero for a recalibration of how nations collaborate economically, manage security threats, and negotiate international influence.

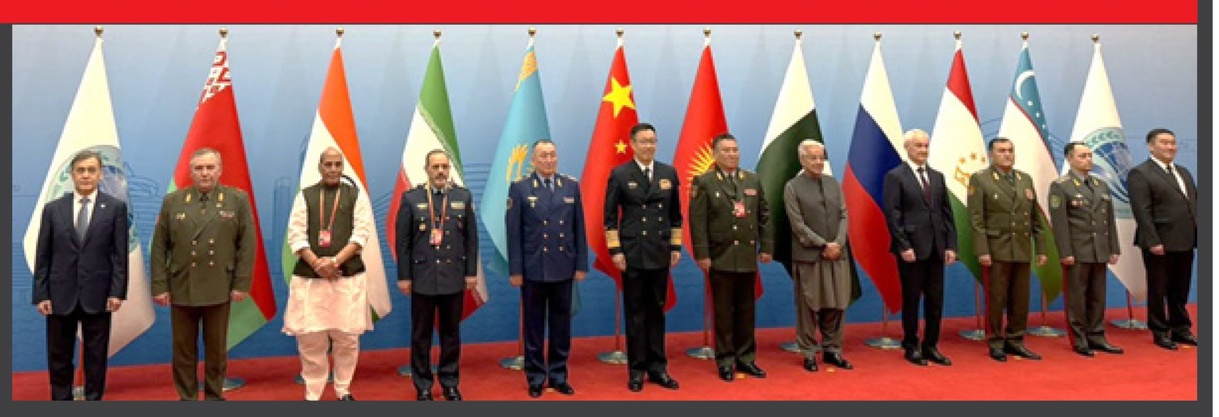
Attendance and Atmosphere

The list of attendees reads like a who's who of Eurasian and increasingly, global leadership. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arguably been the star of the summit, receiving a red carpet welcome and playing a central role in both plenary sessions and bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and several others. Russia, under President Putin, arrives as a nation urgently seeking new partners amid enduring Western sanctions due to the Ukraine conflict.

China's President Xi Jinping, meanwhile, oversees the proceedings, eager to assert his country's position as the principal driver of SCO expansion and reform. Turkish President Erdogan, Iranian President Pezeshkian, and the heads of Central Asian republics round out the group, each with distinct agendas but a common interest in challenging Western dominance. The summit's theme, upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move, is an explicit call for unity, equality, and win-win cooperation.

The underlying message: the time has come for a multipolar world, one that reflects collective interests rather than a single country's priorities.

SCO SUMMIT 2025



Major Highlights and Developments of the Summit

1. Strengthening Ties Among Top World Leaders

Perhaps the most newsworthy element has been the visible thaw in relations between leaders of China, Russia, and India the three largest and most influential SCO members. In a marked departure from recent years, PM Modi and President Xi Jinping met officially for the first time in seven years. The session was cordial, with both agreeing to move beyond border clashes and focus on partnership, not rivalry.

President Xi reiterated the need for a strategic, long-term perspective, especially as China and India celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations. Both countries pledged to boost trade and ease travel between their peoples while navigating outstanding border and trade disputes. The two sides also discussed balancing cooperation with competition, particularly as U.S. tariffs and global trade tensions inadvertently push India and China closer.

On a similar note, PM Modi's bilateral with President Putin reinforced their special and privileged partnership across defense, energy, trade, and technology. Modi invited Putin to India for the upcoming summit in December while both leaders underscored the importance of disregarding Western sanctions and asserting autonomy in world affairs. The three leaders' convergence on several issues including economic reform, terrorism, and multipolarity marks a significant pivot. Their guideline suggests a world order where cooperation among major powers is prioritized over undisputed Western supremacy.

2. Reducing Dollar Dominance: The Finance Revolution

Among the summit's most-discussed outcomes is the advancement of an anti-dollar pact through new SCO banking mechanisms. China, backed by Russia and India, has intensified its campaign to reduce dependence on the dollar for international trade. By building independent payment networks and encouraging settlements in local currencies (notably the ruble and yuan), the SCO members are laying the groundwork for a future where Western financial institutions carry less sway.

President Xi's strategy is to turn the U.S. alliance system on its head—using current trade and currency tensions to pull erstwhile U.S. partners into Beijing's expanding orbit. This reorientation is not limited to rhetoric. Xi and Putin have spotlighted new banking mechanisms, including the establishment of a SCO Bank, designed explicitly to bypass dollar-dominated systems and champion alternative payment networks. As Trump-era tariffs continue to disrupt global commerce, SCO members are increasingly incentivized to cultivate financial and economic autonomy.

China's push for de-dollarization within the SCO is motivated by the risks and limitations imposed by dollar reliance, especially under threat of U.S. sanctions. This initiative resonates well with other members: Russia, grappling with sanctions over Ukraine, is keen to access alternative finance channels. India also sees merit in insulating itself against the volatility of Western-dominated structures, particularly amidst recent trade disputes with the U.S.

The potential implications are profound. As more countries within the SCO (and beyond) adopt local currency settlements, the demand for the U.S. dollar could witness a measurable decline. This could trigger a broader shift in global financial power dynamics and accelerate the process of de-dollarization elsewhere.

3. Reforming Global Governance and Security Architecture

A recurring refrain in both plenary and side meetings has been the necessity to reform global governance architecture from the United Nations to regional security organizations. PM Modi in particular has spoken out strongly on this, urging the SCO to advocate for reform-driven agendas and ensure that multilateral institutions are not held hostage to the interests of a select few.

The summit saw concrete discussions on counterterrorism, radicalization, and cross-border security threats. PM Modi demanded zero tolerance for terrorism, warning against double standards in dealing with state-sponsored aggressors, a veiled reference to persistent tensions with Pakistan over terror attacks in Kashmir. Member states also reaffirmed their commitment to coordinated action against terror financing and organized crime, with new centers to tackle drug trafficking and cybersecurity expected to be unveiled soon.

Russia, meanwhile, has used the forum to lambaste Western military alliances like NATO, labeling them as provocateurs of current conflicts, especially Ukraine, and emphasizing the need for Eurasian security autonomy. By aligning their security strategies and intelligence-sharing protocols, SCO members aim to preempt the imposition of foreign security norms and build region-specific responses to common threats.

DEEP DIVE: INDIA'S ROLE AT THE SUMMIT

1. India's Diplomatic Leverage

India has utilized the 25th SCO summit and especially Modi's high-profile attendance to underline its commitment to open economic practices, sovereignty, and connectivity rooted in mutual respect. Modi's emphasis on Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity as pillars under the SCO umbrella has been echoed by several delegations. A particular focus has been placed on India's active participation in major initiatives: PM Modi reiterated India's support for the Chabahar port and the International North-South Transport Corridor, both crucial for boosting intra-Eurasian trade and connectivity. India is also pushing for a Civilizational Dialogue Forum to expand people-to-people ties, cultural understanding, and youth innovation.

2. Counterterrorism and Security

India has been firm in urging the SCO to take decisive action against terrorism, especially cross-border variants. The group expressed solidarity with India following the recent Pahalgam terror attack, underscoring the need for unified action and accountability for countries supporting terror. In this context, India has proposed strengthening SCO's institutional mechanisms to root out organized crime, narcotics trade, and cyber threats. The group broadly agreed to set up dedicated centers for these purposes, marking a first step toward practical security collaboration beyond dialogue.

Key Summit Moments and Statements

- Historic Bilateral: Modi and Xi's first official meeting in seven years set a positive tone, with agreements to boost trade, ease travel, and foster partnership despite deep-rooted disputes.
- Anti-dollar Pact Unveiled: The SCO Bank and related banking mechanisms, championed by China, Russia, India and others, signal the start of practical steps towards de-dollarization.
- Putin's Strong Address: Putin lambasted Western military interventions and called for greater autonomy, cementing Russia's alignment with Eurasian powers.
- Turkey and Iran's New Partnerships: Turkish President Erdogan and Iranian President Pezeshkian used the summit to reinforce new economic partnerships with China, further eroding the boundaries of old Western alliances.
- UN's Endorsement: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a revival of multilateral institutions with China as a fundamental pillar, publicly acknowledging the SCO's new global clout.
- India's Counterterrorism Call: Modi's forceful message against terrorism and double standards created diplomatic momentum for a unified, action-oriented response by SCO.
- Adoption of 'Tianjin Declaration': At the conclusion of the core sessions, leaders adopted the Tianjin Declaration outlining these reforms and strategic priorities for the coming years.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS claim first Leagues Cup crown

Inter Miami missed chances despite Luis Suárez's assists in the game

SEATTLE

Seattle Sounders FC created history by winning their first-ever Leagues Cup title, defeating Lionel Messi's Inter Miami 3-0 in the final at Lumen Field. With this victory, Seattle became the only Major League Soccer (MLS) team to capture every major North American soccer trophy. Their collection already includes four US Open Cups, two MLS Cups, one Concacaf Champions Cup, and one Supporters' Shield.

The breakthrough came in the 26th minute when Osaze De Rosario powered a header from Paul Rothrock's cross into the far corner. In the 84th minute, Alex Roldan doubled the lead by calmly converting a penalty after Georgi Minoungou was fouled. Just minutes later, Rothrock sealed the match with a precise strike in the 89th minute.

Inter Miami had their chances but failed to convert. Luis Suárez set up openings for Messi and Tadeo Allende, but neither could find the back of the net. Miami, winners of the 2023 edition, saw their hopes end as Seattle controlled the final moments.

The Sounders' triumph adds to their growing reputation, achieved before a record crowd at Lumen Field. Beyond the trophy, the win grants Seattle automatic qualification to the 2026 Concacaf Champions Cup Round of 16.

Seattle's Leagues Cup journey was marked by dominance, including a 16-2 goal difference despite injuries and suspensions. They were also the only team across MLS and Liga MX to secure maximum points in the group stage.

After their historic success, Seattle will now turn focus back to domestic league action, resuming MLS competition against LA Galaxy on September 13.

Aryna Sabalenka, Djokovic, Alcaraz reach US Open quarters

Alcaraz, youngest in Open Era with 13 Grand Slam quarterfinals, faces Czech Jiri Lehecka next, a rematch of Queen's Club final won by Alcaraz

NEW YORK

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka powered into the US Open quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Cristina Bucsa, ensuring she retains her World No. 1 ranking. The 73-minute victory marked her 12th straight Grand Slam quarterfinal and fifth consecutive at Flushing Meadows. She will face 2023 Wimbledon winner Marketa Vondrousova, who beat Elena Rybakina 6-4, 5-7, 6-2. Sabalenka leads their head-to-head 5-3.

Jessica Pegula also advanced, beating Ann Li 6-1, 6-2 in just 54 minutes. The win marked her 19th career US Open victory, her strongest record at any major. Pegula is now 8-2 in Slam fourth-round matches.

On the men's side, Novak Djokovic eased past Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-3, 6-2, becoming the oldest man to reach all four Grand Slam quarterfinals in a single season. This is his 14th US Open quarterfinal, surpassing Roger Federer and Andre Agassi, and trailing only Jimmy Connors' 17. Djokovic now faces Taylor Fritz, who defeated Tomas Machac in straight sets. Carlos Alcaraz, 22, also progressed, defeating France's Arthur Rinderknech 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-4. Alcaraz became the youngest man in Open Era history to reach 13 Grand Slam quarterfinals. He next meets Czech seed Jiri Lehecka, who overcame Adrian Mannarino 7-6(4), 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Their clash will be a rematch of this summer's Queen's Club final, won by Alcaraz.

With Sabalenka, Djokovic, and Alcaraz all advancing, the US Open quarterfinals promise high drama, star-studded battles, and potential history-making performances on both the men's and women's sides.

Tennis Premier League season 7 begins Dec 9

AHMEDABAD

The seventh season of the Tennis Premier League (TPL), India's only professional tennis league, is set to take place from December 9 to 14 at the Gujarat University Tennis Stadium in Ahmedabad. This marks the league's first-ever edition outside Maharashtra, as TPL continues to grow its footprint across India.

Organized under the All India Tennis Association (AITA), TPL becomes the fourth sports league in India to reach its seventh season. This year's tournament will feature eight franchises and top international players ranked between 30 and 50 on the ATP Tour. India's own tennis stars, including two-time Grand Slam champion Rohan Bopanna, will also participate.

Known for its quick 25-point format, TPL offers fast-paced and engaging tennis action. Co-founders Kunal Thakkur and Mrunal Jain expressed their excitement about bringing the event to Gujarat, praising Ahmedabad's infrastructure and growing sports culture.

Over the past year, TPL has worked closely with the Gujarat State Tennis Association to support local talent through grassroots tournaments and scholarships via the TPL App.

Shrimal Bhatt, Secretary of the Gujarat State Tennis Association, called the event a major step forward for tennis in the state, as it brings elite-level international players to Gujarat for the very first time.

NATION'S PARA PRIDE

Athletes of Indian Athletic Academy delivered outstanding performances at the 14th Junior and Sub-Junior National Para Athletics Championships 2025 under coach Vikram and Indian Academy's Roshan's guidance. Soumya (T12) won gold in 400m and silver in 1500m, Bharathi (F37) secured gold in shot put and 100m, silver in long jump, while Mohit (T12) clinched gold in 200m and 400m.

ICC unveils record prize money for women's cricket

NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a historic prize pool for the upcoming ICC Women's ODI World Cup, to be held in India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2. The prize money has been raised to 13.88 million USD (about ₹122 crore), a 297 percent increase from the 3.5 million USD (₹30 crore) awarded in the 2022 edition in New Zealand.

The champions of the 2025 tournament will secure 4.48 million USD (around ₹39 crore), more than double the 1.32 million USD Australia received in 2022. The runners-up will receive 2.24 million USD (₹19 crore), while the two losing semi-finalists will take home 1.12 million USD (₹9 crore) each.

Each participating team is guaranteed 250,000 USD (₹2 crore). Teams finishing fifth and sixth will earn 700,000 USD each (₹6 crore), while seventh and eighth will get 280,000 USD each (₹2.47 crore). In addition, every group-stage win will fetch 34,314 USD (₹30 lakh).

ICC Chairman Jay Shah called the announcement a "defining milestone" in women's cricket. He said the four-fold rise in prize money shows ICC's commitment to ensuring women cricketers are treated on par with men.

Jamie Overton steps away from red-ball cricket

LONDON

England all-rounder Jamie Overton has announced an indefinite break from red-ball cricket, effective immediately. The 29-year-old said he made the decision after serious thought, citing the physical and mental demands of playing all formats year-round.

Overton has played 99 first-class matches for Surrey and Somerset and earned two Test caps for England since his debut in 2022. His red-ball career includes being a key part of Surrey's recent County Championship success, especially their 2022 title win where he took 36 wickets, including best figures of 6 for 61. In a statement released by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Overton said red-ball cricket gave him the foundation for his professional journey. However, he now wants to focus fully on white-ball formats. "It's where I learnt the game, but I can no longer commit fully to all formats," he said.

As a result, Overton will not feature in England's squad for the upcoming Ashes series in Australia, starting November 21 in Perth. Instead, he will play in the Big Bash League (BBL) for Adelaide Strikers.

England's Men's Director of Cricket Rob Key said the news was unexpected but respected Overton's choice, acknowledging the changing demands of modern cricket.

BEYOND THE BRIEFS

Advokathon blends fitness, unity and social justice

BENGALURU

The winners of the Advokathon Walkathon/Run 2025 at Freedom Park, Bengaluru, celebrated alongside the guest of honor and Cityhilights, the media partner, embracing the spirit of fitness and fraternity.

Bengaluru's Freedom Park came alive with Advokathon, a unique running event that combined fitness, fraternity, and social reform. Organized by JUSTITIAA in association with TE Sports, the run brought together advocates, their families, and supporters to promote health and highlight the importance of juvenile reformation.

The event featured three categories — a 10K timed run, a 5K timed run, and a 3K fun run. Participants ran past the city's iconic landmarks including Vidhana Soudha and the Karnataka High Court, symbolizing a journey through governance and justice.

Chief guest Nanjappa Kalegowda and Freedom Park President Sri Gandasi Sadananda led the event, supported by dignitaries like Dr. Mir Raficul Aon and Antony Sir of the Karnataka Volleyball Association. Dr. Aon said, "Advokathon reflects the legal fraternity's commitment to reform and shaping a better future." Antony Sir emphasized the role of sports in driving social progress.

Sri Gandasi Sadananda noted the event as a celebration of unity, wellness, and justice. The run stood out for blending advocacy with action, leaving behind more than just athletic achievements.

In the 5K male category, Naveen C.V. won with a time of 20:22, followed closely by Bib 5209 and Adarsh Kushwaha. Among women, Shaurya clocked 29:30, with Gayathri N. and Neha Mane completing the podium. In the 10K male race, Mitul Kumar Dave secured first place at 44:50, edging out Tanmay Sah and Vino Kumar Ponnu Krishnan. For women, Bhavishya K.B. led with 49:43, followed by Sreevidya Chira and Priyamvada J. With enthusiastic participation and inspiring messages, Advokathon 2025 became a movement uniting fitness, advocacy, and social reform.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at MNS Printers (P) Ltd., No-345/4 Bhattarahalli, Virgo Nagar Post, Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bangalore - 560049, Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080- 22255300. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.